सिविल सेवा (प्रारंभिक) टेस्ट सीरीज़-2024

जब तक आपको यह परीक्षण पुस्तिका खोलने को न कहा जाए तब तक न खोलें

परीक्षण पुस्तिका अनुक्रम

Test Code: P1/P2-2403

परीक्षण पुस्तिका

सामान्य अध्ययन

टेस्ट – 03

C

समय : दो घण्टे **पूर्णांक : 200**

अनुदेश

1. **परीक्षा प्रारम्भ होने के तुरन्त बाद, आप इस परीक्षण पुस्तिका की पड़ताल अवश्य कर लें कि इसमें कोई बिना छपा, फटा या छूटा हुआ पृष्ठ अथवा प्रश्न आदि न हो। यदि ऐसा हो तो इसे सही परीक्षण पुस्तिका से बदल लीजिए।**
2. **उत्तर-पत्रक में सही स्थान पर परीक्षण पुस्तिका अनुक्रम A, B, C या D यथास्थिति स्पष्ट रूप से कूटबद्ध कीजिये।**
3. इस पंक्ति के साथ में दिये गए कोष्ठक में आपको अपना अनुक्रमांक लिखना है। परीक्षण पुस्तिका पर **और कुछ न** लिखें।
4. इस परीक्षण पुस्तिका में **100** प्रश्नांश (प्रश्न) दिये गए हैं। प्रत्येक प्रश्नांश हिन्दी और अंग्रेज़ी में छपा है। प्रत्येक प्रश्नांश में चार प्रत्युत्तर (उत्तर) दिये गए हैं। इनमें से एक प्रत्युत्तर को चुन लें जिसे आप उत्तर-पत्रक पर अंकित करना चाहते हैं। यदि आपको ऐसा लगे कि एक से अधिक प्रत्युत्तर सही हैं तो उस प्रत्युत्तर को अंकित करें जो आपको सर्वोत्तम लगे। प्रत्येक प्रश्नांश के लिये केवल एक ही प्रत्युत्तर चुनना है।
5. आपको अपने सभी प्रत्युत्तर अलग से दिये गए उत्तर-पत्रक पर ही अंकित करने हैं। उत्तर-पत्रक में दिये गए निर्देश देख लें।
6. सभी प्रश्नों के अंक समान हैं।
7. इससे पहले कि आप परीक्षण पुस्तिका के विभिन्न प्रश्नांशों के प्रत्युत्तर उत्तर पत्रक पर अंकित करना शुरू करें, आपको प्रवेश प्रमाण-पत्र के साथ प्रेषित अनुदेशों के अनुसार कुछ विवरण उत्तर-पत्रक में देने हैं।
8. आप अपने सभी प्रत्युत्तरों को उत्तर-पत्रक में भरने के बाद तथा परीक्षा के समापन पर केवल उत्तर-पत्रक अधीक्षक को सौंप दें। आपको अपने साथ परीक्षण पुस्तिका ले जाने की अनुमति है।
9. कच्चे काम के लिये कुछ पत्रक परीक्षण पुस्तिका के अंत में संलग्न हैं।
10. **गलत उत्तरों के लिये दंड:**

वस्तुनिष्ठ प्रश्न-पत्रों में उम्मीदवार द्वारा दिये गए गलत उत्तरों के लिये दंड दिया जाएगा।

(i) प्रत्येक प्रश्न के लिये चार वैकल्पिक उत्तर हैं। उम्मीदवार द्वारा प्रत्येक प्रश्न के लिये दिये गए एक गलत उत्तर के लिये प्रश्न हेतु नियत किये गए अंकों का **एक-तिहाई** दंड के रूप में काटा जाएगा।

(ii) यदि कोई उम्मीदवार एक से अधिक उत्तर देता है, तो इसे **गलत उत्तर** माना जाएगा, चाहे दिये गए उत्तरों में से एक उत्तर सही हो, उस प्रश्न के लिये उपर्युक्तानुसार ही दंड दिया जाएगा।

(iii) यदि उम्मीदवार द्वारा कोई प्रश्न हल नहीं किया जाता है, अर्थात् उम्मीदवार द्वारा उत्तर नहीं दिया जाता है, तो उस प्रश्न के लिये **कोई दण्ड नहीं** दिया जाएगा।

जब तक आपको यह परीक्षण पुस्तिका खोलने को न कहा जाए तब तक न खोलें

***ध्यान दें :* अनुदेशों का अंग्रेज़ी रूपान्तर इस पुस्तिका के अंतिम पृष्ठ पर छपा है।**

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1. भारत में अगस्त्यमलाई जीवमंडल आरक्षित क्षेत्र के संदर्भ में, निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिये:

1. इसके अंतर्गत केरल, तमिलनाडु और कर्नाटक के पर्वतीय क्षेत्र शामिल हैं।
2. यह UNESCO के मैन एंड द बायोस्फीयर (MAB) प्रोग्राम का एक भाग है।
3. इस जीवमंडल आरक्षित क्षेत्र में शोला वन मौजूद है।

उपर्युक्त कथनों में से कौन-सा/से सही है/हैं?

(a) केवल 1 *(b)* केवल 2 और 3
(c) केवल 3 *(d)* 1, 2 और 3

2. निम्नलिखित में से किस प्रक्रिया ने पृथ्वी के वायुमंडल के विकास में योगदान दिया?

1. आदिकालिक वातावरण का ह्रास
2. पृथ्वी का गर्म आंतरिक भाग
3. प्रकाश संश्लेषण की प्रक्रिया

नीचे दिये गए विकल्पों में से सही कूट चुनिये:

(a) केवल 1 *(b)* केवल 1 और 2
(c) केवल 3 *(d)* 1, 2 और 3

3. निम्नलिखित में से पृथ्वी के आंतरिक भाग के संबंध में जानकारी के अप्रत्यक्ष स्रोत कौन-से हैं?

1. ज्वालामुखी प्रस्फुटन
2. गुरुत्वाकर्षण बल
3. भूकंप
4. गहरी खदानें
5. उल्कापिंड
6. चुंबकीय क्षेत्र

नीचे दिये गए विकल्पों में से सही कूट चुनिये:

(a) केवल 1, 2 और 3
(b) केवल 1, 3 और 4
(c) केवल 2, 3, 5 और 6
(d) केवल 2, 3, 4, 5 और 6

4. भूकंप तरंगों के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिये:

1. धरातलीय तरंगें सबसे पहले भूकंपलेखी पर अभिलेखित होती हैं।
2. प्राथमिक तरंगें गैसीय, तरल और ठोस पदार्थों से होकर गुजरती हैं।
3. द्वितीयक तरंगें केवल ठोस माध्यम में ही गुजर सकती हैं।
4. प्रकृति में धरातलीय तरंगें सबसे कम विनाशकारी होती हैं।

उपर्युक्त में से कौन-सा कथन सही ***नहीं*** है?

(a) केवल 1 और 3 *(b)* केवल 2 और 3
(c) केवल 1 और 4 *(d)* केवल 2, 3 और 4

5. उष्णकटिबंधीय चक्रवात के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित पर विचार कीजिये:

1. उच्च दबाव
2. उष्ण व आर्द्र वायु
3. गुप्त ऊष्मा
4. कोरियोलिस बल
5. तीव्र ऊर्ध्वाधर पवन
6. 0-5° अक्षांश

उष्णकटिबंधीय चक्रवात के निर्माण के लिये उपर्युक्त में से कितनी स्थितियाँ आवश्यक हैं?

(a) केवल तीन *(b)* केवल चार
(c) केवल पाँच *(d)* सभी छह

6. सूखे के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिये:

1. मौसमविज्ञान संबंधी सूखा तब उत्पन्न होता है जब विभिन्न भंडारों और जलाशयों जैसे जलभृतों, झीलों आदि में जल की उपलब्धता वर्षा से भरपाई की जा सकने वाली मात्रा से कम हो जाती है।
2. जलविज्ञान संबंधी सूखा एक ऐसी स्थिति है जब लंबे समय तक अपर्याप्त वर्षा होती है साथ ही समय और स्थान के साथ असमानुपातिक वितरण होता है।

उपर्युक्त में से कौन-सा/से कथन सही है/हैं?

(a) केवल 1 *(b)* केवल 2
(c) 1 और 2 दोनों *(d)* न तो 1 और न ही 2

7. निम्नलिखित युग्मों पर विचार कीजिये:

स्थानीय पवन		*राज्य*
1. आम्र वर्षा	:	कर्नाटक
2. फूलों की बौछार	:	केरल
3. बारदोली छीड़ा	:	असम

उपर्युक्त में से कितने युग्म सही सुमेलित हैं?

(a) केवल एक *(b)* केवल दो
(c) सभी तीन *(d)* कोई भी नहीं

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1. With reference to Agasthyamalai biosphere reserve in India, consider the following statements:

1. It covers the hilly areas of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.
2. It is a part of UNESCO Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme.
3. Shola forest is present in this Biosphere reserve.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1 only *(b)* 2 and 3 only
(c) 3 only *(d)* 1, 2 and 3

2. Which of the following process contributed to the evolution of Earth atmosphere?

1. The loss of primordial atmosphere
2. The hot interior of the earth
3. Process of photosynthesis

Select the correct code given below:

(a) 1 only *(b)* 1 and 2 only
(c) 3 only *(d)* 1, 2 and 3

3. Which of the following are the indirect sources of information regarding interior of the Earth?

1. Volcanic eruptions
2. Gravitational force
3. Earthquakes
4. Deep mines
5. Meteors
6. Magnetic field

Select the correct code given below:

(a) 1, 2 and 3 only
(b) 1, 3 and 4 only
(c) 2, 3, 5 and 6 only
(d) 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 only

4. Consider the following statements with reference to the Earthquakes waves:

1. Surface waves are the first ones to be recorded on seismograph.
2. Primary waves travel through gaseous, liquid and solid materials.
3. Secondary waves can travel only in solid medium.
4. Surface waves are the least destructive in nature.

Which of the above statements are ***not*** correct?

(a) 1 and 3 only *(b)* 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 4 only *(d)* 2, 3 and 4 only

5. With reference to tropical cyclone, consider the following:

1. High pressure
2. Warm and moist air
3. Latent heat
4. Coriolis force
5. Strong vertical wind
6. 0-5° latitude

How many of the above conditions are essential for formation of tropical cyclone?

(a) Only three *(b)* Only Four
(c) Only five *(d)* All six

6. Consider the following statements with reference to drought:

1. Meteorological drought results when the availability of water in different storages and reservoirs like aquifers, lakes, etc. falls below what the precipitation can replenish.
2. Hydrological drought is a situation when there is a prolonged period of inadequate rainfall marked with disproportionate distribution over time and space.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

(a) 1 only *(b)* 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 *(d)* Neither 1 nor 2

7. Consider the following pairs:

	Local Wind		*State*
1.	Mango Shower	:	Karnataka
2.	Blossom Shower	:	Kerala
3.	Bordoisila	:	Assam

How many of the above pairs are correctly marched?

(a) Only one *(b)* Only two
(c) All three *(d)* None

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8. अंत: उष्णकटिबंधीय अभिसरण क्षेत्र (ITCZ) के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिये:

1. यह निम्न दबाव का क्षेत्र है जहाँ व्यापारिक पवनें ऊपर उठती हैं।
2. इसे मानसून गर्त के रूप में जाना जाता है क्योंकि यह दक्षिण-पश्चिमी पवनों को भारतीय उपमहाद्वीप की ओर आकर्षित करता है।
3. शीत ऋतु में इसके परिणामस्वरूप पवन का रुख उत्तर-पूर्व से दक्षिण और दक्षिण-पश्चिम की ओर मुड़ जाता है।

उपर्युक्त में से कितने कथन सही हैं?

(a) केवल एक *(b)* केवल दो
(c) सभी तीन *(d)* कोई भी नहीं

9. भारत की मृदा के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिये:

1. नदी और नदी घाटियों में इसकी व्यापक उपस्थिति के कारण जलोढ़ मृदाएँ देश के कुल क्षेत्रफल के 60% भाग को समाहित करती है।
2. काली मृदा का विकास ज्वालामुखीय चट्टानों के अपक्षय से हुआ।
3. लाल मृदा दक्कन पठार के पूर्वी और दक्षिणी भाग में कम वर्षा वाले क्षेत्रों में क्रिस्टलीय आग्नेय चट्टानों पर विकसित होती है।

उपर्युक्त में से कितने कथन सही हैं?

(a) केवल एक *(b)* केवल दो
(c) सभी तीन *(d)* कोई भी नहीं

10. भारत में वर्षा के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिये:

1. दक्षिण-पश्चिम मानसून संपूर्ण भारत को समाविष्ट करता है, इस मौसम में किसी भी स्थान पर सूखा नहीं पड़ता है।
2. भारत में शीत ऋतु में वर्षा नहीं होती है।
3. मानसून की अवधि में वर्षा रहित अंतराल को 'वर्षा-अंतराल' के रूप में जाना जाता है और वर्षा में ये अंतराल चक्रवाती अवदाबों से संबंधित होता हैं।

उपर्युक्त में से कितने कथन सही हैं?

(a) केवल एक *(b)* केवल दो
(c) सभी तीन *(d)* कोई भी नहीं

11. पृथ्वी के आंतरिक भाग के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिये:

1. दुर्बलतामंडल सहित भूपर्पटी और मेंटल की सबसे ऊपरी परत को स्थलमंडल कहा जाता है।
2. पृथ्वी का क्रोड भाग 2900 किमी. की गहराई से आगे प्रारंभ होता है जो उच्च घनत्व के कारण पूरी तरह से ठोस अवस्था में है।

उपर्युक्त कथनों में से कौन-सा/से सही है/हैं?

(a) केवल 1 *(b)* केवल 2
(c) 1 और 2 दोनों *(d)* न तो 1 और न ही 2

12. भारत में ज्वालामुखी प्रस्फुटन के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिये:

1. प्रायद्वीपीय भारत का दक्कन ट्रैप बेसाल्ट प्रवाह क्षेत्र का एक उदाहरण है।
2. बैरेन द्वीप भारत का एकमात्र ज्वालामुखीय द्वीप है।
3. हिंद महासागर मध्य महासागरीय कटक ज्वालामुखियों से रहित है।

उपर्युक्त में से कितने कथन सही हैं?

(a) केवल एक *(b)* केवल दो
(c) सभी तीन *(d)* कोई भी नहीं

13. "मैग्मा सामग्री का एक बड़ा पिंड है जो भूपर्पटी की अधिक गहराई में ठंडा होकर बड़े गुंबदों के रूप में विकसित होता है। वे अनाच्छादन प्रक्रियाओं के बाद सतह पर प्रकट होते हैं। वे बड़े क्षेत्रों को आच्छादित करते हैं साथ ही मैग्मा कक्षों के ठंडे क्षेत्र होते हैं।" यह सर्वाधिक संभावित वर्णन है

(a) क्रेटन का *(b)* बैथोलिथ का
(c) लैकोलिथ का *(d)* लैपोलिथ का

14. 'टिलाइट' निम्नलिखित में से किसको सर्वोत्तम रूप से संदर्भित करता है?

(a) यह हिमनदों के निक्षेपों से बनी एक अवसादी चट्टान है।
(b) घाना तट पर सोने का प्रचुर प्लेसर निक्षेप
(c) अफ्रीका और दक्षिण अमेरिका की तटरेखाओं में साम्यता।
(d) यह हिमानी भू-भाग के क्षरण के बाद बनी एक भू-आकृति है।

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8. With reference to the Inter Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ), consider the following statements:

1. It is a low pressure zone where trade winds ascend.
2. It is known as monsoon trough because it attracts Southwest winds towards Indian Subcontinent.
3. In winter, it results in reversal of wind from northeast to south and southwest.

How many of the above statements are correct?

(a) Only one *(b)* Only two
(c) All three *(d)* None

9. Consider the following statements with reference to the soils of India:

1. Alluvial soils cover 60% of the total area of the country because of its widespread presence in river and river valleys.
2. Black soil is developed by weathering of volcanic rocks.
3. The red soil develops on crystalline igneous rocks in areas of low rainfall in the eastern and southern part of the Deccan Plateau.

How many of the above statements are correct?

(a) Only one *(b)* Only two
(c) All three *(d)* None

10. Consider the following statements with reference to rainfall in India?

1. Southwest monsoons cover whole India, and no place gets left dried during this season.
2. India does not receive any rainfall during winter.
3. During monsoon season, rainless intervals occur known as 'breaks' and these breaks in rainfall are related to the cyclonic depressions.

How many of the above statements are correct?

(a) Only one *(b)* Only two
(c) All three *(d)* None

11. With reference to Earth's interior, consider the following statements:

1. The crust and uppermost part of mantle including asthenosphere is called Lithosphere.
2. The core of the Earth starts beyond the depth of 2900km which is completely in solid state due to high density.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only *(b)* 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 *(d)* Neither 1 nor 2

12. With reference to volcanic eruptions in India consider the following statements:

1. Deccan traps of peninsular India is an example of flood basalt province.
2. Barren Island is the only volcanic Island in India.
3. Indian ocean is devoid of mid-ocean ridge volcanoes.

How many of the above statements are correct?

(a) Only one *(b)* Only two
(c) All three *(d)* None

13. "A large body of magmatic material that cools in the deeper depth of the crust develops in the form of large domes. They appear on the surface after the denudational processes. They cover large areas and are cooled portions of magma chambers." This is the most likely description of

(a) Craton *(b)* Batholith
(c) Lacolith *(d)* Lapolith

14. 'Tillite' best refers to which one of the following?

(a) It is a sedimentary rock formed out of deposits of glaciers.
(b) Rich placer deposits of gold in the Ghana coast.
(c) Unmistakable match of the shorelines of Africa and South America.
(d) It is a landform formed after erosion of glacial landmass.

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15. निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिये:

कथन-I:

भारतीय प्लेट में प्रायद्वीपीय भारत और ऑस्ट्रेलियाई महाद्वीपीय भाग शामिल हैं।

कथन-II:

एक समय भारतीय उपमहाद्वीप 50° दक्षिण अक्षांश के दक्षिण में स्थित था।

उपर्युक्त कथनों के बारे में, निम्नलिखित में से कौन-सा एक सही है?

(a) कथन-I और कथन-II दोनों सही हैं तथा कथन-II, कथन-I की सही व्याख्या है

(b) कथन-I और कथन-II दोनों सही हैं तथा कथन-II, कथन-I की सही व्याख्या नहीं है

(c) कथन-I सही है किंतु कथन-II गलत है

(d) कथन-I गलत है किंतु कथन-II सही है

16. प्लेट विवर्तनिकी के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिये:

1. अपसारी परिसीमाएँ प्रकृति में विनाशकारी होती हैं।
2. अभिसारी परिसीमाएँ रचनात्मक प्रकृति की होती हैं।
3. रूपांतर परिसीमाएँ न तो रचनात्मक हैं और न ही विनाशकारी।

उपर्युक्त में से कितने कथन सही हैं?

(a) केवल एक

(b) केवल दो

(c) सभी तीन

(d) कोई भी नही

17. निम्नलिखित विवरणों पर विचार कीजिये:

1. अपवाहित जल	2. हिमानी
3. पवन	4. लहरें
5. धाराएँ	6. ज्वालामुखीयता

उपर्युक्त कारकों में से कितने भू-आकृतिक हैं?

(a) केवल तीन

(b) केवल चार

(c) केवल पाँच

(d) सभी छह

18. "इस फसल का उपयोग भोजन और चारे दोनों के रूप में किया जाता है। यह एक खरीफ फसल है जिसके लिये 21 डिग्री सेल्सियस से 27 डिग्री सेल्सियस के बीच तापमान की आवश्यकता होती है। यह पुरानी जलोढ़ मृदा में अच्छी तरह उगाई जा सकती है।" निम्नलिखित में से यह कौन-सी फसल है?

(a) मोटे अनाज

(b) मक्का

(c) गन्ना

(d) चावल

19. निम्नलिखित में से कौन-सा खनिज एल्यूमीनियम उत्पादन का प्राथमिक स्रोत है?

(a) लौह अयस्क

(b) ताम्र अयस्क

(c) बॉक्साइट

(d) स्वर्ण अयस्क

20. मोढेरा सूर्य मंदिर के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिये:

1. इसे मारू-गुर्जर स्थापत्य शैली में निर्मित किया गया है।
2. विषुव (Equinox) के दौरान, सूर्य की किरणें सीधे इस मंदिर के केंद्रीय भाग में पड़ती हैं।
3. हाल ही में इसे यूनेस्को की विश्व धरोहर स्थल के अंतर्गत शामिल किया गया है।

उपर्युक्त में से कितने कथन सही हैं?

(a) केवल एक

(b) केवल दो

(c) सभी तीन

(d) कोई भी नही

21. वह 'द लाइफ डिवाइन', 'द मदर' एवं 'द फ्यूचर पोएट्री' के लेखक रहे, उन्होंने कैम्ब्रिज विश्वविद्यालय में अध्ययन किया और योग तथा शास्त्रीय संस्कृत के अध्ययन में दक्षता प्राप्त की। वह थे-

(a) रवींद्रनाथ टैगोर

(b) जोगेंद्र नाथ मंडल

(c) स्वामी विवेकानंद

(d) अरबिंदो घोष

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15. Consider the following statements:
Statement-I:
The Indian plate includes Peninsular India and the Australian continental portions.
Statement-II:
Once the Indian subcontinent was located as south as 50° S latitude.
Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

(a) Both statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I

(b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for statement-I

(c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect

(d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement -II is correct

16. With reference to plate tectonics consider the following statements:

1. Divergent boundaries are destructive in nature.
2. Convergent boundaries are constructive in nature.
3. Transform boundaries are neither constructive nor destructive.

How many of the above statements are correct?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

17. Consider the following particulars:

1. Running water
2. Moving ice masses
3. Wind
4. Waves
5. Currents
6. Volcanism

How many of the above are geomorphic agents?

(a) Only three
(b) Only four
(c) Only five
(d) All six

18. "The crop is used both as food and fodder. It is a kharif crop which requires temperature between 21 degrees Celsius to 27 degrees Celsius. It grows well in old alluvial soil." Which one of the following is that crop?

(a) Millets
(b) Maize
(c) Sugarcane
(d) Rice

19. Which of the following minerals is a primary source of aluminium production?

(a) Iron ore
(b) Copper ore
(c) Bauxite
(d) Gold ore

20. With reference to the Modhera Sun Temple, consider the following statements:

1. It is built in Maru-Gurjara architectural style.
2. At the time of the equinoxes, the sun shines directly into the central shrine of this temple.
3. Recently, it has been included under UNESCO's World Heritage Site.

How many of the above statements are correct?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

21. He wrote The Life Divine, The Mother and The Future Poetry; studied at the University of Cambridge; and gained proficiency in the study of yoga and classical Sanskrit. He was

(a) Rabindranath Tagore
(b) Jogendra Nath Mandal
(c) Swami Vivekanand
(d) Aurobindo Ghose

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22. निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिये:

कथन-I:

श्रीनिवास रामानुजन की स्मृति में 22 दिसंबर को राष्ट्रीय गणित दिवस के रूप में मनाया जाता है।

कथन-II:

इसका उद्देश्य लोगों को गणित के महत्त्व और इस क्षेत्र में हुई प्रगति तथा विकास के बारे में जागरूक करना है।

उपर्युक्त कथनों के बारे में, निम्नलिखित में से कौन-सा एक सही है?

(a) कथन-I और कथन-II दोनों सही हैं तथा कथन-II, कथन-I की सही व्याख्या है

(b) कथन-I और कथन-II दोनों सही हैं तथा कथन-II, कथन-I की सही व्याख्या नहीं है

(c) कथन-I सही है किंतु कथन-II गलत है

(d) कथन-I गलत है किंतु कथन-II सही है

23. हाल ही में, भारत ने निम्नलिखित में से किस देश के साथ अनुसंधान, अध्ययन और कार्य के लिये यात्रा को आसान बनाने हेतु व्यापक प्रवासन और गतिशीलता साझेदारी पर हस्ताक्षर किये?

(a) कनाडा

(b) जर्मनी

(c) संयुक्त अरब अमीरात

(d) संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका

24. निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिये:

1. क्षेत्रीय शक्तियों के प्रभाव का मुकाबला करने में भू-राजनीतिक हित।
2. क्षेत्र के प्रचुर ऊर्जा संसाधनों तक पहुँच।
3. ऐतिहासिक और सांस्कृतिक संबंध प्राचीन व्यापार मार्गों से जुड़े हैं।
4. सुरक्षा उद्देश्यों के लिये क्षेत्रीय सैन्य गठबंधनों में भागीदारी।

मध्य एशियाई देशों के साथ भारत के बढ़ते संपर्क के संदर्भ में उपर्युक्त में से कितने कथन सही हैं?

(a) केवल एक *(b)* केवल दो

(c) केवल तीन *(d)* सभी चार

25. अंतर्राष्ट्रीय श्रम संगठन (ILO) के संदर्भ में, निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिये:

1. इसकी स्थापना वर्ष 1945 में वर्साय की संधि द्वारा संयुक्त राष्ट्र की एक संबद्ध एजेंसी के रूप में की गई थी।
2. यह सरकार, नियोक्ता तथा कर्मचारी प्रतिनिधियों वाली एक त्रिपक्षीय एजेंसी है।
3. वर्ल्ड इकोनॉमिक एंड सोशल आउटलुक तथा सोशल डायलॉग रिपोर्ट इसके प्रकाशन हैं।

उपर्युक्त में से कितने कथन सही हैं?

(a) केवल एक

(b) केवल दो

(c) सभी तीन

(d) कोई भी नहीं

26. निम्नलिखित में से किस स्थिति में "फुजिवारा प्रभाव" की चर्चा की जाती है?

(a) शेल गैस की खोज के लिये क्षेत्रों की पहचान

(b) एक ही दिशा में घूम रहे दो चक्रवातों के बीच परस्पर क्रिया

(c) जापान के निकटवर्ती क्षेत्रों में भूकंप के भिन्न-भिन्न प्रारूप

(d) पूर्वी चीन सागर में एवं उसके आसपास तीव्र ज्वालामुखीय गतिविधियाँ

27. निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिये:

1. 'कारागार और उसमें निरुद्ध व्यक्ति' भारत के संविधान की सातवीं अनुसूची की सूची III के अंतर्गत एक समवर्ती विषय है।
2. निशुल्क विधिक सहायता या निशुल्क विधिक सेवा का अधिकार संविधान द्वारा प्रदत्त एक गारंटीकृत मूल अधिकार है।

उपर्युक्त कथनों में से कौन-सा/से सही है/हैं?

(a) केवल 1

(b) केवल 2

(c) 1 और 2 दोनों

(d) न तो 1 और न ही 2

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22. Consider the following statements:
Statement-I:
In remembrance of Srinivasa Ramanujan, 22nd December is celebrated as National Mathematics Day.
Statement-II:
The aim is to make people aware of the importance of mathematics and advancements made in the field.
Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

(a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I

(b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I

(c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect

(d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

23. Recently, India signed a Comprehensive Partnership on Migration and Mobility meant to ease travel for research, study and work with which of the following countries?

(a) Canada

(b) Germany

(c) United Arab Emirates

(d) United States of America

24. Consider the following statements:

1. Geopolitical interests in countering the influence of regional powers.
2. Access to abundant energy resources in the region.
3. Historical and cultural ties dating back to ancient trade routes.
4. Participation in regional military alliances for security purposes.

With reference to India's engagement with Central Asian countries, how many of the above statements are correct?

(a) Only one *(b)* Only two

(c) Only three *(d)* All four

25. With reference to International Labour Organization (ILO), consider the following statements:

1. It was established in 1945 by the Treaty of Versailles as an affiliated agency of the United Nations.
2. It is a tripartite agency with government, employer, and worker representatives.
3. World Employment and Social Outlook and Social Dialogue Report are its publications.

How many of the above statements are correct?

(a) Only one

(b) Only two

(c) All three

(d) None

26. "Fujiwhara Effect" is talked about in which one of the following situations?

(a) Identification of areas for the exploration of shale gas

(b) Interaction between two cyclones spinning in the same direction

(c) Variable earthquake patterns in adjoining regions of Japan

(d) Intense volcanic activities in and around East China Sea

27. Consider the following statements:

1. 'Prisons and persons detained therein' is a Concurrent subject under List III of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India.
2. Right to free legal aid or free legal service is a fundamental right guaranteed by the Constitution.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

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28. निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिये:

1. परमाणु ऊर्जा भारत के लिये विद्युत का पाँचवा सबसे बड़ा स्रोत है।
2. भारतीय परमाणु ऊर्जा निगम (NPCIL) देश में परमाणु ऊर्जा सयंत्रों की अभिकल्पना, निर्माण, प्रवर्तन और संचालन के लिये ज़िम्मेदार है।
3. थोरियम को भविष्य का परमाणु ईंधन माना जाता है।

उपर्युक्त में से कितने कथन सही हैं?

(a) केवल एक
(b) केवल दो
(c) सभी तीन
(d) कोई भी नहीं

29. समुद्रयान मिशन के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिये:

1. इसका उद्देश्य व्यक्तियों को महासागर में 10,000 मीटर की गहराई तक भेजना है।
2. यह भारत का पहला अद्वितीय मानवयुक्त महासागर मिशन है और डीप ओशन मिशन का एक हिस्सा है।
3. इसे विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय तथा पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय द्वारा संयुक्त रूप से कार्यान्वित किया जाता है।

उपर्युक्त में से कितने कथन सही हैं?

(a) केवल एक *(b)* केवल दो
(c) सभी तीन *(d)* कोई भी नहीं

30. 'किलोनोवा' निम्नलिखित में से किस घटना को सर्वोत्तम रूप से संदर्भित करता है?

(a) ये विशाल तारे हैं जो सुपरनोवा में विस्फोट करते हैं, जिससे तीव्र ऊर्जा विमुक्त होती है।
(b) ये दो न्यूट्रॉन तारों के संघट्टन और विलय के परिणामस्वरूप ऊर्जा का तीव्र विस्फोट उत्पन्न करते हैं।
(c) ये अपने विकास के अंतिम चरण में लंबे समय तक जीवित रहने वाले, अत्यधिक चमकदार तारे हैं।
(d) ये धूमकेतु पिंड हैं जो कभी-कभी चंद्रमा की सतह पर प्रभाव डालते हैं, जिससे प्रकाश की तेज़ चमक उत्पन्न होती है।

31. निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिये:

1. काले प्रवाल उथले जल और 8,000 मीटर की गहराई तक के गहरे जल, दोनों में पाए जा सकते हैं।
2. काले प्रवाल निस्यंद भोजी (फिल्टर फीडर) होते हैं और छोटे प्राणिप्लवक को खाते हैं जो गहरे जल में प्रचुर मात्रा में पाए जाते हैं।

उपर्युक्त कथनों में से कौन-सा/से सही है/हैं?

(a) केवल 1 *(b)* केवल 2
(c) 1 और 2 दोनों *(d)* न तो 1 और न ही 2

32. डोकरा शिल्प के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिये:

1. इसका अभ्यास गुजरात और महाराष्ट्र की जनजातियों द्वारा किया जाता है।
2. यह घंटा धातु शिल्प का एक रूप है।

उपर्युक्त कथनों में से कौन-सा/से सही है/हैं?

(a) केवल 1 *(b)* केवल 2
(c) 1 और 2 दोनों *(d)* न तो 1 और न ही 2

33. 'सैंड बैटरी' के संदर्भ में, निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिये:

1. "सैंड बैटरी" एक उच्च तापमान युक्त तापीय ऊर्जा भंडारण है जिसमें भंडारण माध्यम के रूप में बालू या बालू के समान सामग्री का उपयोग किया जाता है।
2. बालू लंबी अवधि तक ऊष्मा बनाए रखने और महीनों तक विद्युत भंडारण का एक प्रभावी माध्यम है।

उपर्युक्त कथनों में से कौन-सा/से सही है/हैं?

(a) केवल 1 *(b)* केवल 2
(c) 1 और 2 दोनों *(d)* न तो 1 और न ही 2

34. निम्नलिखित विवरणों पर विचार कीजिये:

1. कर प्रतिस्पर्द्धा
2. टैक्स हेवन (Tax Haven)
3. आधार क्षरण एवं लाभ हस्तांतरण
4. राष्ट्र की कर संप्रभुता

आर्थिक सहयोग और विकास संगठन (OECD) द्वारा प्रस्तावित "वैश्विक न्यूनतम कर" (GMT) के कार्यान्वयन से उपर्युक्त में से कितने प्रभावित होंगे?

(a) केवल एक *(b)* केवल दो
(c) केवल तीन *(d)* सभी चार

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28. Consider the following statements:

1. Nuclear energy is the fifth largest source of electricity for India.
2. Nuclear Power Corporation of India (NPCIL) is responsible for designing, building, commissioning and operating nuclear power reactors in the country.
3. Thorium is considered as the nuclear fuel of the future.

How many of the above statements are correct?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

29. With reference to Samudrayaan mission, consider the following statements:

1. It is aimed at sending persons to 10,000-metre depth in ocean.
2. It is India's first unique manned ocean mission and is a part of Deep Ocean Mission.
3. It is jointly implemented by Ministry of Science and Technology and Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

How many of the above statements are correct?

(a) Only one *(b)* Only two
(c) All three *(d)* None

30. 'Kilonovae' best refers to which of the following phenomena?

(a) They are massive stars that explode in a supernova, releasing a burst of energy.
(b) They result from the collision and merger of two neutron stars, producing intense bursts of energy.
(c) They are long-lived, highly luminous stars at the late stages of their evolution.
(d) They are cometary bodies that occasionally impact the moon's surface, causing bright flashes of light.

31. Consider the following statements:

1. Black corals can be found both in shallow waters and down to depths up to 8,000 metres.
2. Black corals are filter feeders and eat tiny zooplankton that are abundant in deep waters.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only *(b)* 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 *(d)* Neither 1 nor 2

32. Consider the following statements with reference to Dokra art:

1. It is practised by the tribes in Gujarat and Maharashtra.
2. It is a form of bell metal craft.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only *(b)* 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 *(d)* Neither 1 nor 2

33. With reference to 'Sand battery', consider the following statements:

1. It is a high temperature thermal energy storage that uses sand or sand-like materials as its storage medium.
2. Sand is an effective medium for retaining heat over a long period, storing power for months at a time.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only *(b)* 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 *(d)* Neither 1 nor 2

34. Consider the following particulars:

1. Tax competition
2. Tax havens
3. Base Erosion and Profit Shifting
4. Tax sovereignty of the nation

How many of the above will be affected by the implementation of "Global Minimum Tax" proposed by Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)?

(a) Only one *(b)* Only two
(c) Only three *(d)* All four

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35. वैश्विक भुखमरी सूचकांक, 2022 के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिये:

1. भारत 'मध्यम भुखमरी' की श्रेणी में आता है।
2. भारत में 50% से अधिक बच्चे बौनेपन का शिकार हैं।
3. यह सूचकांक खाद्य और कृषि संगठन (FAO) द्वारा प्रकाशित किया जाता है।

उपर्युक्त में से कितने कथन सही हैं?

(a) केवल एक
(b) केवल दो
(c) सभी तीन
(d) कोई भी नहीं

36. सेंट्रल बैंक डिजिटल करेंसी (CBDC) अथवा 'ई-रुपी' के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिये:

1. यह एक प्रतिस्थापन योग्य विधिक निविदा है, जिसके लिये धारकों के पास बैंक खाता होना आवश्यक नहीं है।
2. इसे खुदरा और थोक दो व्यापक श्रेणियों में विभाजित किया गया है।
3. यह फिएट करेंसी के साथ वन टू वन विनिमय योग्य है।

उपर्युक्त में से कितने कथन सही हैं?

(a) केवल एक
(b) केवल दो
(c) सभी तीन
(d) कोई भी नहीं

37. PM स्वनिधि योजना के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिये:

1. इसे सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता मंत्रालय द्वारा कार्यान्वित किया जाता है।
2. इसका उद्देश्य रेहड़ी-पटरी वालों को कार्यशील पूंजी ऋण की सुविधा प्रदान करना है।

उपर्युक्त कथनों में से कौन-सा/से सही है/हैं?

(a) केवल 1
(b) केवल 2
(c) 1 और 2 दोनों
(d) न तो 1 और न ही 2

38. निम्नलिखित युग्मों पर विचार कीजिये:

बेरोज़गारी का प्रकार		*परिभाषा*
1. प्रच्छन्न बेरोज़गारी	:	जिसमें वास्तव में आवश्यकता से अधिक लोग कार्यरत हैं
2. संरचनात्मक बेरोज़गारी	:	वर्ष के कुछ निश्चित मौसमों के दौरान ऐसा होता है जब खेतिहर मज़दूरों के पास कार्य नहीं होता है
3. तकनीकी बेरोज़गारी	:	तकनीकी परिवर्तन के कारण नौकरियों की हानि

उपर्युक्त युग्मों में से कितने सही सुमेलित हैं?

(a) कोई भी युग्म नहीं
(b) केवल एक युग्म
(c) केवल दो युग्म
(d) सभी तीन युग्म

39. हाल ही में समाचारों में देखी गई मेइजोट्रोपिस पेलिटा, फ्रिटिलारिया सिरोहोसा, डैक्टाइलोरिजा हैटागिरिया संबंधित हैं–

(a) पश्चिमी घाट में खोजी गई मेंढक की नई प्रजाति
(b) हिमालय में पाई जाने वाली पौधों की प्रजातियाँ जिन्हें IUCN रेड लिस्ट में शामिल किया गया है
(c) वानर प्रजातियाँ जिन्हें CITES परिशिष्ट-II में शामिल किया गया है
(d) अंतरिक्ष में पाए जाने वाले सूक्ष्मजीव

40. राष्ट्रीय खाद्य सुरक्षा अधिनियम (NFSA), 2013 के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिये:

1. यह अधिनियम विधिक रूप से सभी भारतीय नागरिकों को लक्षित करते हुए सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली के अंतर्गत सब्सिडी युक्त खाद्यान्न प्राप्त करने का अधिकार देता है।
2. केंद्र और राज्य सरकारें संयुक्त रूप से अधिनियम के अंतर्गत ज़िम्मेदारियों को संभालती हैं।

उपर्युक्त कथनों में से कौन-सा/से सही है/हैं?

(a) केवल 1
(b) केवल 2
(c) 1 और 2 दोनों
(d) न तो 1 और न ही 2

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35. Consider the following statements with reference to Global Hunger Index 2022 :

1. India lies under 'moderate hunger' category.
2. More than 50% of children in India are stunted.
3. The index is published by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

How many of the above statements are correct?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

36. Consider the following statements with reference to Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) or 'e-rupee' :

1. It is a fungible legal tender, for which holders need not have a bank account.
2. It is demarcated into two broad categories, namely Retail and Wholesale.
3. It is exchangeable one-to-one with the fiat currency.

How many of the above statements are correct?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

37. Consider the following statements with reference to PM SVANidhi scheme :

1. It is implemented by the Ministry of social justice and empowerment.
2. It aims to facilitate working capital loan to street vendors.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

38. Consider the following pairs :

	Type of unemployment		*Definition*
1.	Disguised unemployment	:	wherein more people are employed than actually needed
2.	Structural Unemployment	:	occurs during certain seasons of the year when agricultural labourers have no work
3.	Technological Unemployment	:	the loss of jobs due to changes in technology

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

(a) None of the pairs
(b) Only one pair
(c) Only two pairs
(d) All three pairs

39. Meizotropis pellita, Fritillaria cirrhosa and Dactylorhiza hatagirea recently seen in news are associated with

(a) newly discovered frog species in Westen ghat
(b) plant species found in the Himalayas added to the IUCN Red List
(c) ape species that are added in CITES Appendix-II
(d) microorganism found in space

40. Consider the following statements with reference the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 :

1. The Act legally entitles all the Indian citizens to receive subsidized foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System.
2. Central and state governments jointly handle the responsibilities under the act.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

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41. तटरेखा आवास और नियमित आय के लिये मैंग्रोव पहल (MISHTI) योजना के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिये:

1. इस योजना का लक्ष्य समुद्र तट और लवणीय भूमि पर मैंग्रोव के वृक्ष लगाना है।
2. इस योजना का उद्देश्य मैंग्रोव पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र के संरक्षण में स्थानीय लोगों की भागीदारी को शामिल करना है।
3. यह योजना निजी संसाधनों और कार्बन तथा जैव-विविधता भूस्तरिका को आकर्षित कर सकती है।

उपर्युक्त में से कितने कथन सही हैं?

(a) केवल एक
(b) केवल दो
(c) सभी तीन
(d) कोई भी नहीं

42. वायु प्रदूषण पर विश्व बैंक की रिपोर्ट के संदर्भ में, 'एयरशेड' संबंधित है

(a) सामान्य भौगोलिक क्षेत्र जहाँ प्रदूषक अवरुद्ध हो जाते हैं, जिससे सभी के लिये समान वायु गुणवत्ता का निर्माण होता है।
(b) ग्रीनहाउस शेड में वायु की आवाजाही जो सूर्य की ऊष्मा और प्रकाश को ग्रहण करके पौधों को बढ़ने की अनुमति प्रदान करता है।
(c) हानिकारक वायु प्रदूषकों का संयोजन, जो अक्सर जमीन से अपेक्षाकृत नीचे पीले-भूरे रंग की धुंध के रूप में दिखाई देता है।
(d) काष्ठ चूल्हे या चिमनी से निकलने वाला धुआँ जो क्रेओसोट के रूप में चिमनी में चिपक जाता है या वायु प्रदूषण के रूप में उत्सर्जित हो जाता है।

43. "वैश्विक जल संसाधन स्थिति रिपोर्ट 2021" निम्नलिखित में से किसके द्वारा जारी की जाती है?

(a) संयुक्त राष्ट्र पर्यावरण कार्यक्रम
(b) विश्व मौसम विज्ञान संगठन
(c) विश्व संसाधन संस्थान
(d) विश्व आर्थिक मंच

44. काली मृदा के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिये:

1. काली मृदा की वैश्विक स्थिति रिपोर्ट खाद्य और कृषि संगठन द्वारा जारी की जाती है।
2. इस मृदा में कार्बनिक कार्बन स्टॉक का ह्रास हो रहा है।
3. इसमें नाइट्रोजन और फॉस्फोरस प्रचुर मात्रा में होता है किंतु आयरन, कैल्शियम और पोटेशियम की कमी होती है।

उपर्युक्त में से कितने कथन सही हैं?

(a) केवल एक
(b) केवल दो
(c) सभी तीन
(d) कोई भी नहीं

45. हिमालयी याक के संबंध में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिये:

1. इसे FSSAI द्वारा खाद्य पशु घोषित किया गया है।
2. ये तिब्बती पठार की एक स्थानिक प्रजाति हैं।

उपर्युक्त कथनों में से कौन-सा/से सही है/हैं?

(a) केवल 1
(b) केवल 2
(c) 1 और 2 दोनों
(d) न तो 1 और न ही 2

46. मीथेन के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिये:

1. यह सबसे जटिल हाइड्रोकार्बन है।
2. इसके सामान्य स्रोत तेल और प्राकृतिक गैस प्रणालियाँ हैं।
3. वैश्विक तापन क्षमता की दृष्टि से यह कार्बन डाइऑक्साइड से भी अधिक प्रभावकारी है।

उपर्युक्त कथनों में से कौन-सा/से सही है/हैं?

(a) केवल 1
(b) केवल 3
(c) 1 और 2
(d) 2 और 3

47. निम्नलिखित में से कौन-सा 'कुल प्रजनन दर' का सबसे सटीक वर्णन करता है?

(a) प्रत्येक महिला द्वारा उसके प्रजनन वर्षों के दौरान पैदा हुए बच्चों की कुल संख्या।
(b) प्रत्येक महिला द्वारा उसके संपूर्ण जीवनकाल में पैदा हुए बच्चों की संख्या।
(c) विवाह के प्रथम पाँच वर्षों के भीतर एक दंपत्ति द्वारा पैदा हुए बच्चों की संख्या।
(d) किसी विशेष वर्ष में प्रति 1,000 लोगों पर जीवित जन्मों की संख्या।

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41. Consider the following statements with reference to the Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes (MISHTI) scheme:

1. The scheme aims on plantation of Mangrove trees along the coastline and saltpan lands.
2. The scheme aims to include local people's participation in conserving mangrove ecosystems.
3. The scheme could attract private resources and carbon and biodiversity offsets.

How many of the above statements are correct?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

42. With reference to World Bank Report on Air Pollution, 'Airsheds' refer to

(a) common geographic area where pollutants get trapped, creating similar air quality for everyone.
(b) air movement in greenhouse shed which allows plants to grow by capturing heat and light of the sun.
(c) combination of harmful air pollutants, often appearing relatively low to the ground as a yellow-brown haze.
(d) smoke that escapes from wood stove or fireplace which gets stick to the chimney as creosote or released as air pollution.

43. "State of Global Water Resources Report 2021" is released by which of the following?

(a) United Nations Environment Programme
(b) World Meteorological Organization
(c) World Resources Institute
(d) World Economic Forum

44. With reference to the Black Soil, consider the following statements:

1. The Report Global Status on Black Soils is released by Food and Agriculture Organization.
2. It is losing its Soil Organic Carbon stock.
3. It is rich in nitrogen and phosphorus but deficient in iron, calcium and potassium.

How many of the above statements are correct?

(a) Only one *(b)* Only two
(c) All three *(d)* None

45. Consider the following statements regarding Himalayan yak:

1. It is declared as a food animal by FSSAI.
2. They are endemic to the Tibetan Plateau.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only *(b)* 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 *(d)* Neither 1 nor 2

46. With reference to methane, consider the following statements:

1. It is the most complex hydrocarbon.
2. Its most common source is oil and natural gas systems.
3. In terms of global warming capacity, it is more potent than carbon dioxide.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only *(b)* 3 only
(c) 1 and 2 *(d)* 2 and 3

47. Which of the following best describes "Total Fertility Rate (TFR)"?

(a) The number of children born per woman during her reproductive years.
(b) The number of children born per woman during her entire lifetime.
(c) The number of children born to a couple within the first five years of marriage.
(d) The number of live births per 1,000 people in a given year.

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48. निम्नलिखित विवरणों पर विचार कीजिये:

1. ग्लोबली इम्पोर्टेंट एग्रीकल्चरल हेरिटेज सिस्टम (GIAHS)
2. कोडेक्स एलेमेंट्रिस कमीशन
3. खाद्य और कृषि के लिये वनस्पति आनुवांशिक संसाधनों पर अंतर्राष्ट्रीय संधि
4. एक देश एक प्राथमिकता उत्पाद

उपर्युक्त में से कितनी खाद्य एवं कृषि संगठन की पहल हैं?

(a) केवल एक *(b)* केवल दो
(c) केवल तीन *(d)* सभी चार

49. निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिये:

1. भारत की देशांतरीय और अक्षांशीय सीमा लगभग 30 डिग्री है।
2. भारतीय मानक समय (IST) के लिये 82°30' W देशांतर को 'मानक याम्योत्तर रेखा' के रूप में चयनित किया गया है।

उपर्युक्त कथनों में से कौन-सा/से सही है/हैं?

(a) केवल 1 *(b)* केवल 2
(c) 1 और 2 दोनों *(d)* न तो 1 और न ही 2

50. निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिये:

1. प्रायद्वीपीय भारत का निर्माण मूलत: प्राचीन पट्टिताश और ग्रेनाइटों से हुआ है।
2. उत्तर पूर्व में मेघालय पठार और पश्चिम में राजस्थान प्रायद्वीपीय खंड के ही विस्तार हैं।

उपर्युक्त कथनों में से कौन-सा/से सही है/हैं?

(a) केवल 1 *(b)* केवल 2
(c) 1 और 2 दोनों *(d)* न तो 1 और न ही 2

51. हिमालयन यव के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिये:

1. यह हिमालय क्षेत्र का स्थानिक पर्णपाती वृक्ष है।
2. इसकी खेती मुख्य रूप से इसके फल के लिये की जाती है, जिसका उपयोग पारंपरिक हिमालयी व्यंजनों में किया जाता है।
3. पेड़ की छाल टकसोल का एक स्रोत है, जो संभावित कैंसर-रोधी गुणों वाला एक यौगिक है।
4. यह तेज़ी से बढ़ने वाला पेड़ है तथा आमतौर पर इसका उपयोग हिमालय के गिरिपाद में पुनर्वनीकरण के लिये किया जाता है।

उपर्युक्त में से कितने कथन सही हैं?

(a) केवल एक *(b)* केवल दो
(c) केवल तीन *(d)* सभी चार

52. "संभावित संसाधन" निम्नलिखित में से किस स्थिति को सर्वोत्तम रूप से संदर्भित करता है?

(a) पर्यावरण में मौजूद सामग्रियाँ जिनमें मानवीय आवश्यकताओं को पूरा करने की क्षमता होती है।
(b) वे संसाधन जो किसी क्षेत्र में पाए जाते हैं लेकिन उनका उपयोग नहीं किया गया है।
(c) जिन संसाधनों का सर्वेक्षण किया गया है तथा उनकी मात्रा एवं गुणवत्ता का अनुमान लगाया गया है।
(d) वे संसाधन जो वर्तमान में प्राप्त एवं उपयोग किये जाते हैं तथा जिनकी मात्रा ज्ञात होती है।

53. पर्यावरण संरक्षण और सांस्कृतिक विरासत के संदर्भ में "पवित्र उपवन" क्या हैं?

(a) जैव-विविधता संरक्षण के लिये सरकारी एजेंसियों द्वारा संरक्षित आरक्षित वन।
(b) स्वदेशी समुदायों द्वारा बनाए गए छोटे पैमाने के कृषि क्षेत्र।
(c) वन या उपवन जो धार्मिक एवं सांस्कृतिक मान्यताओं के कारण स्थानीय समुदायों द्वारा संरक्षित हैं।
(d) स्वदेशी पादपों की प्रजातियों को संरक्षित करने के लिये अभिकल्पित किये गए मानव निर्मित शहरी उद्यान।

54. 'कर्तन एवं दहन' कृषि के संदर्भ में, निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिये:

1. इसमें वन के एक हिस्से को साफ करना, वनस्पति का दहन तथा फिर पोषक तत्त्वों से भरपूर राख में फसलें लगाना शामिल है।
2. भारत में, यह प्रथा देश के उत्तर-पूर्वी क्षेत्र तक ही सीमित है।

उपर्युक्त कथनों में से कौन-सा/से सही है/हैं?

(a) केवल 1
(b) केवल 2
(c) 1 और 2 दोनों
(d) न तो 1 और न ही 2

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48. Consider the following particulars:

1. Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS)
2. Codex Alimentarius Commission
3. International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
4. One Country One Priority Product

How many of the above are the initiatives of Food and Agriculture Organisation?

(a) Only one *(b)* Only two
(c) Only three *(d)* All four

49. Consider the following statements:

1. The longitudinal and latitudinal extent of India is roughly 30 degrees.
2. 82°30' W longitude is selected as 'standard meridian' for Indian Standard Time (IST).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only *(b)* 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 *(d)* Neither 1 nor 2

50. Consider the following statements:

1. Peninsular India is formed essentially by a great complex of ancient gneisses and granites.
2. Meghalaya Plateau in the northeast and Rajasthan in the west are extensions of Peninsular block.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only *(b)* 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 *(d)* Neither 1 nor 2

51. With reference to Himalayan Yew, consider the following statements:

1. It is a deciduous tree native to the Himalayan region.
2. It is primarily cultivated for its fruit, which is used in traditional Himalayan cuisine.
3. The bark of the tree is a source of taxol, a compound with potential anti-cancer properties.
4. It is a fast-growing tree and is commonly used for reforestation in the Himalayan foothills.

How many of the above statements are correct?

(a) Only one *(b)* Only two
(c) Only three *(d)* All four

52. "Potential Resources" best refers to which one of the following situations?

(a) Materials in the environment which have the potential to satisfy human needs.
(b) Resources which are found in a region but have not been utilized.
(c) Resources which have been surveyed and their quantity and quality have been estimated.
(d) Resources that are obtained and utilized in the present and whose quantities are known.

53. What are "Sacred Groves" with reference to the environmental conservation and cultural heritage?

(a) Reserved forests protected by government agencies for biodiversity conservation.
(b) Small-scale agricultural zones maintained by indigenous communities.
(c) Forests or groves that are protected by local communities due to religious and cultural beliefs.
(d) Man-made urban parks designed to preserve indigenous plant species.

54. With reference to 'slash and burn' agriculture, consider the following statements:

1. It involves clearing a patch of forest, burning the vegetation, and then planting crops in the nutrient-rich ashes.
2. In India, the practice is limited to North-Eastern region of the country.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

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55. स्वतंत्र भारत के संदर्भ में रक्तहीन क्रांति का संबंध है

(a) उच्च उपज देने वाले किस्म के बीजों का उपयोग करके खाद्यान्न उत्पादन में वृद्धि से।

(b) भूमिहीन किसानों को भूमि का एक हिस्सा स्वेच्छा से दान करने की एक पहल से।

(c) महिला संघों द्वारा शराब विरोधी अभियान से।

(d) अनुसूचित जाति/अनुसूचित जनजाति के लिये शैक्षिक परिणाम बढ़ाने के लिये आंदोलन से।

56. निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिये:

कथन-I:

धात्विक खनिजों में एक निश्चित संरचना में धातुओं के एक या अधिक रूप होते हैं।

कथन-II:

अभ्रक एक धात्विक खनिज है।

उपर्युक्त कथनों के बारे में, निम्नलिखित में से कौन-सा सही है?

(a) कथन-I और कथन-II दोनों सही हैं तथा कथन-II कथन-I की सही व्याख्या है

(b) कथन-I और कथन-II दोनों सही हैं तथा कथन-II, कथन-I की सही व्याख्या नहीं है

(c) कथन-I सही है किंतु कथन-II गलत है

(d) कथन-I गलत है किंतु कथन-II सही है

57. भारत में जूट वस्त्र के संदर्भ में, निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिये:

1. पहली जूट मिल वर्ष 1859 में कोलकाता के पास स्थापित की गई थी।
2. विभाजन के बाद अधिकांश जूट उत्पादक क्षेत्र पाकिस्तान में चले गए।

उपर्युक्त कथनों में से कौन-सा/से सही है/हैं?

(a) केवल 1

(b) केवल 2

(c) 1 और 2 दोनों

(d) न तो 1 और न ही 2

58. निम्नलिखित विवरणों पर विचार कीजिये:

1. घरेलू उपचार
2. एक सुंदर भू-परिदृश्य
3. बॉक्साइट अयस्क
4. बुद्धिमत्ता
5. दोस्तों और परिवार से स्नेह

उपर्युक्त में से कितने को संसाधन माना जा सकता है?

(a) केवल दो *(b)* केवल तीन

(c) केवल चार *(d)* सभी पाँच

59. निम्नलिखित पर विचार कीजिये:

1. जनक शैल
2. वर्षा
3. वनस्पति और जीव
4. ऊँचाई
5. समय

उपर्युक्त कारकों में से कितने मृदा के निर्माण में योगदान करते हैं?

(a) केवल दो

(b) केवल तीन

(c) केवल चार

(d) सभी पाँच

60. मृदा संरक्षण विधियों के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित युग्मों पर विचार कीजिये:

	पद		*वर्णन*
1.	मल्चिंग	:	पौधों के बीच की अनावरित भूमि जैव पदार्थों जैसे प्रवाल से ढक दी जाती है
2.	सम्मोचरेखीय रोधिकाएँ	:	खड़ी ढलानों पर चौड़ी सपाट सीढ़ियाँ या छतें बनाई जाती हैं
3.	अंतरफसल	:	विभिन्न फसलें एकांतर कतारों में उगाई जाती हैं

उपर्युक्त युग्मों में से कितने सही सुमेलित हैं?

(a) केवल एक

(b) केवल दो

(c) सभी तीन

(d) कोई भी नहीं

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55. In the context of Post-Independent India, the Bloodless Revolution is associated with

(a) increased foodgrain production using high yielding variety seeds.

(b) an initiative to voluntarily donate a portion of land to landless peasants.

(c) anti-liquor campaign by women associations.

(d) movement to raise educational outcomes for scheduled castes/scheduled tribes.

56. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I:

Metallic minerals contain one or more forms of metals in a definite composition.

Statement-II:

Mica is a metallic mineral.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

(a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I

(b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I

(c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect

(d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

57. With reference to Jute Textiles in India, consider the following statements:

1. The first jute mill was set up near Kolkata in 1859.
2. After partition majority of jute producing areas went to Pakistan.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

58. Consider the following particulars:

1. Home remedies
2. A beautiful landscape
3. Bauxite ore
4. Intelligence
5. Affection from friends and family

How many of the above can be considered as resources?

(a) Only two *(b)* Only three

(c) Only four *(d)* All five

59. Consider the following:

1. Parent rock
2. Rainfall
3. Flora and Fauna
4. Altitude
5. Time

How many of the above factors contribute to soil formation?

(a) Only two

(b) Only three

(c) Only four

(d) All five

60. Consider the following pairs with reference to soil conservation methods:

Term		*Described as*
1. Mulching	:	The bare ground between plants is covered with a layer of organic matter like straw
2. Contour Barriers	:	Broad flat steps or terraces are made on the steep slopes
3. Intercropping	:	Different crops are grown in alternate rows

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

(a) Only one

(b) Only two

(c) All three

(d) None

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61. निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिये:

कथन-I:

पृथ्वी पर मौजूद कुल जल का लगभग 2.7% ही अलवणीय जल है।

कथन-II:

पृथ्वी पर लगभग 70% अलवणीय जल अंटार्कटिका, ग्रीनलैंड और पर्वतीय क्षेत्रों में बर्फ की चादरों और हिमनदों के रूप में पाया जाता है।

उपर्युक्त कथनों के संबंध में निम्नलिखित में से कौन-सा सही है?

(a) कथन-I और कथन-II दोनों सही हैं तथा कथन-II, कथन-I की सही व्याख्या है

(b) कथन-I और कथन-II दोनों सही हैं तथा कथन-II, कथन-I की सही व्याख्या नहीं है

(c) कथन-I सही है किंतु कथन-II गलत है

(d) कथन-I गलत है किंतु कथन-II सही है

62. निम्नलिखित में से कौन-सा 'पारितंत्र' पद का सबसे अच्छा वर्णन है?

(a) यह स्थलमंडल, जलमंडल और वायुमंडल के बीच संपर्क का एक संकीर्ण क्षेत्र है जिसमें प्राकृतिक वनस्पति और वन्य जीवन मौजूद हैं।

(b) इसमें जैव और अजैव दोनों शामिल होते हैं जो जीवित रहने के लिये एक दूसरे से जुड़े हुए होते हैं और एक दूसरे पर निर्भर होते हैं।

(c) यह वह परिवेश या परिस्थितियाँ हैं जिनमें कोई प्राणिजात या पादप अधिवासित या क्रियाशील रहते हैं।

(d) यह वर्तमान और भावी पीढ़ियों के लिये एक या अधिक प्रजातियों की रक्षा हेतु निर्दिष्ट प्राकृतिक क्षेत्र है।

63. वन्य जीवों और वनस्पतियों की लुप्तप्राय प्रजातियों के अंतर्राष्ट्रीय व्यापार पर अभिसमय (CITES) के संदर्भ में, निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिये:

1. CITES सरकारों के बीच एक अंतर्राष्ट्रीय समझौता है जो वर्ष 1975 में लागू हुआ।
2. इसका उद्देश्य यह सुनिश्चित करना है कि वन्यजीवों और वनस्पतियों के प्रतिरूपों के अंतर्राष्ट्रीय व्यापार से प्रजातियों के अस्तित्व को खतरा न हो।

उपर्युक्त में से कौन-सा/से सही है/हैं?

(a) केवल 1 *(b)* केवल 2

(c) 1 और 2 दोनों *(d)* न तो 1 और न ही 2

64. उत्तरी अमेरिका में ग्रेट लेक्स के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिये:

1. यह पूर्व-मध्य उत्तरी अमेरिका में पाँच गहरी मीठे पानी की झीलों की एक शृंखला है।
2. सुपीरियर झील ऊपर की ओर ऊँचे स्थान पर स्थित है और सभी झीलों में सबसे बड़ी है।
3. इनमें से चार झीलें कनाडा और संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका की सीमा पर स्थित हैं।

उपर्युक्त में से कितने कथन सही हैं?

(a) केवल एक *(b)* केवल दो

(c) सभी तीन *(d)* कोई भी नहीं

65. निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिये:

1. भारत में वन के रूप में वर्गीकृत क्षेत्रों को वास्तविक वन आवरण में कोई वृद्धि किये बिना बढ़ाया जा सकता है।
2. भारत में, सरकार वन विकास और राजस्व रिकॉर्ड के लिये वास्तविक वन आवरण पर विचार करती है।

उपर्युक्त कथनों में से कौन-सा/से सही है/हैं?

(a) केवल 1

(b) केवल 2

(c) 1 और 2 दोनों

(d) न तो 1 और न ही 2

66. भारत में कॉफी उत्पादन के संदर्भ में, निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिये:

1. भारत में ज़्यादातर 'रोबस्टा' किस्म की कॉफी का उत्पादन होता है जिसकी अंतर्राष्ट्रीय बाज़ार में काफी मांग है।
2. देश में कॉफी के कुल उत्पादन का दो-तिहाई से अधिक उत्पादन अकेले केरल में होता है।

उपर्युक्त कथनों में से कौन-सा/से सही है/हैं?

(a) केवल 1 *(b)* केवल 2

(c) 1 और 2 दोनों *(d)* न तो 1 और न ही 2

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61. Consider the following statements:
Statement-I:
Fresh water accounts for only about 2.7% of total water present on the Earth.
Statement-II:
Nearly 70% of freshwater on Earth occurs as ice sheets and glaciers in Antarctica, Greenland and mountain regions.
Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

(a) Both statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I

(b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for statement-I

(c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect

(d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement -II is correct

62. Which of the following is the best description of the term 'Ecosystem'?

(a) It is narrow zone of contact between the lithosphere, hydrosphere and atmosphere in which Natural vegetation and wildlife exist.

(b) It consists of living beings and non-living beings that are inter-related and interdependent on each other for survival.

(c) It is the surroundings or conditions in which a person, animal, or plant lives or operates.

(d) A natural area designated to protect one or more species for the present and future generations.

63. With reference to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), consider the following statements:

1. CITES is an international agreement between governments that came into force in 1975.
2. It aims to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten the survival of the species.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only *(b)* 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 *(d)* Neither 1 nor 2

64. Consider the following statements with reference to Great Lakes in North America:

1. It is a chain of five deep freshwater lakes in east-central North America.
2. Lake Superior is situated higher upstream and the largest of all the lakes.
3. Four of these lakes are situated at the border of Canada and United States of America.

How many of the above statements are correct?

(a) Only one *(b)* Only two
(c) All three *(d)* None

65. Consider the following statements:

1. Area classified as forest in India, can be increased without any increase in the actual forest cover.
2. In India, the government considers actual forest cover for forest growth and revenue records.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

66. With reference to Coffee production in India, consider the following statements:

1. India mostly produces 'Robusta' variety of coffee which is in great demand in the international market.
2. Kerala alone accounts for more than two-thirds of the total production of Coffee in the country.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only *(b)* 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 *(d)* Neither 1 nor 2

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67. कोयले के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिये:

1. एन्थ्रेसाइट उच्चतम कैलोरी मान एवं सर्वोत्तम गुणवत्ता वाला कोयला होता है जिसमें 100% कार्बन सामग्री होती है।
2. भारत में अधिकांश कोयला निक्षेप दामोदर, सोन, महानदी और गोदावरी नदियों की घाटियों में पाए जाते हैं।
3. पीट काष्ठ से कोयले में परिवर्तन का पहला चरण है और इसका ऊष्मीय मान कम होता है।

उपर्युक्त में से कितने कथन सही हैं?

(a) केवल एक *(b)* केवल दो
(c) सभी तीन *(d)* कोई भी नहीं

68. भारत में पत्तनों के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिये:

1. न्हावा शेवा में स्थित जवाहरलाल नेहरू पत्तन भारत का सबसे बड़ा कंटेनर पत्तन है।
2. मुंबई एक प्राकृतिक पत्तन और देश का सबसे बड़ा पत्तन है।
3. कांडला पत्तन खंभात की खाड़ी के मुहाने पर स्थित एक प्रमुख पत्तन है।

उपर्युक्त में से कितने कथन सही हैं?

(a) केवल एक *(b)* केवल दो
(c) सभी तीन *(d)* कोई भी नहीं

69. कृषि के संदर्भ में 'वारबंदी प्रणाली' निम्नलिखित में से किसको सर्वोत्तम रूप से संदर्भित करती है?

(a) यह लागत कम करने के लिये किसानों के बीच ट्रैक्टर और अन्य कृषि उपकरण साझा करने की एक योजना है।
(b) यह नहर निकास के कमान क्षेत्र में जल के समान वितरण की एक प्रणाली है।
(c) यह समान वितरण और कुशल भूमि उपयोग सुनिश्चित करने हेतु किसानों के बीच संसाधनों के आवंटन के लिये एक पूर्व निर्धारित कार्यक्रम है।
(d) यह आधुनिक कृषि तकनीकों को अपनाने हेतु प्रोत्साहित करने के लिये किसानों को सब्सिडी देने की एक प्रणाली है।

70. राष्ट्रीय जलमार्ग (NW) संख्या 2 किस नदी पर और किन दो स्थानों के बीच स्थित है?

(a) ब्रह्मपुत्र नदी, सदिया-धुबरी
(b) गंगा नदी, हल्दिया-इलाहाबाद
(c) गोदावरी नदी, काकीनाडा-नेल्लोर
(d) ब्राह्मणी नदी, राउरकेला-धनेकनाल

71. पवन ऊर्जा के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिये:

1. पवन ऊर्जा पूर्णत: प्रदूषण रहित, ऊर्जा का अक्षय स्रोत है।
2. अधिष्ठापित पवन ऊर्जा के मामले में भारत विश्व स्तर पर चीन, संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका और जर्मनी के बाद चौथे स्थान पर है।

उपर्युक्त कथनों में से कौन-सा/से सही है/हैं?

(a) केवल 1 *(b)* केवल 2
(c) 1 और 2 दोनों *(d)* न तो 1 और न ही 2

72. निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिये:

1. महाद्वीपीय द्रव्यमान सिलिका और मैग्नीशियम से निर्मित है।
2. महासागरीय भूपर्पटी सिलिका और एल्युमिना से निर्मित है।
3. क्रोड निकल और लोहे से निर्मित है।

उपर्युक्त कथनों में से कौन-सा/से सही है/हैं?

(a) केवल 1 और 2
(b) केवल 3
(c) केवल 1 और 3
(d) 1, 2 और 3

73. निम्नलिखित पर विचार कीजिये:

1. शेल 2. पटिट्ताश (नीस)
3. कोयला 4. चूना पत्थर
5. स्लेट

उपर्युक्त चट्टानों में से कितनी चट्टानें अवसादी चट्टानें हैं?

(a) केवल दो
(b) केवल तीन
(c) केवल चार
(d) सभी पाँच

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67. With reference to coal, consider the following statements:

1. Anthracite is the best quality of coal with highest calorific value and carries 100% carbon content.
2. Most of the coal reserves in India are found in the valleys of Damodar, Sone, Mahanadi and Godavari rivers.
3. Peat is the first stage of transformation from wood to coal and it has low calorific value.

How many of the above statements are correct?

(a) Only one *(b)* Only two
(c) All three *(d)* None

68. With reference to Ports in India, consider the following statements:

1. Jawaharlal Nehru Port at Nhava Sheva is the largest container port in India.
2. Mumbai is a natural harbour and the biggest port of the country.
3. Kandla port is a major port located at the head of Gulf of Khambhat.

How many of the above statements are correct?

(a) Only one *(b)* Only two
(c) All three *(d)* None

69. With reference to Agriculture, 'Warabandi system' best refers to which one of the following?

(a) It is a scheme for sharing tractors and other agricultural equipment among farmers to reduce costs.
(b) It is a system of equitable distribution of water in the command area of canal outlet.
(c) It is a predetermined schedule for the allocation of resources among farmers to ensure equitable distribution and efficient land use.
(d) It is a system for granting subsidies to farmers to encourage the adoption of modern farming techniques.

70. On which river and between which two places does the National Waterway (NW) No. 2 lie?

(a) Brahmaputra River, Sadiya-Dhubri
(b) Ganga River, Haldia-Allahabad
(c) Godavari River, Kakinada-Nellore
(d) Brahmani River, Rourkela-Dhanekanal

71. With reference to wind energy, consider the following statements:

1. Wind energy is absolutely pollution free, inexhaustible source of Energy.
2. India ranks 4th globally after China, the United States and Germany, in terms of installed wind energy.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only *(b)* 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 *(d)* Neither 1 nor 2

72. Consider the following statements:

1. The continental mass is made up of silica and magnesium.
2. The oceanic crust is made up of silica and alumina.
3. The core is made up of nickel and iron.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

73. Consider the following:

1. Shale
2. Gneiss
3. Coal
4. Limestone
5. Slate

How many of the above mentioned rocks are sedimentary rocks?

(a) Only two
(b) Only three
(c) Only four
(d) All five

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74. निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिये:

कथन-I :

पृथ्वी की सतह पर सूर्य और चंद्रमा द्वारा लगाया गया प्रबल गुरुत्वाकर्षण ज्वार-भाटा का कारण बनता है।

कथन-II:

जब सूर्य, चंद्रमा और पृथ्वी एक ही रेखा में होते हैं तो लघु ज्वार-भाटा का निर्माण होता है।

उपर्युक्त कथनों के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित में से कौन-सा सही है?

(a) कथन-I और कथन-II दोनों सही हैं तथा कथन-II कथन-I की सही व्याख्या है।

(b) कथन-I और कथन-II दोनों सही हैं तथा कथन-II, कथन-I की सही व्याख्या नहीं है।

(c) कथन-I सही है किंतु कथन-II गलत है।

(d) कथन-I गलत है किंतु कथन-II सही है।

75. निम्नलिखित पर विचार कीजिये:

1. बैंगुला धारा
2. फॉकलैंड धारा
3. ओयाशिवो धारा

उपर्युक्त धाराओं में से कितनी दक्षिण अटलांटिक महासागर का भाग हैं?

(a) केवल एक *(b)* केवल दो

(c) सभी तीन *(d)* कोई भी नहीं

76. पर्णपाती वनों के संबंध में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिये:

1. ये हिमालय के गिरिपाद क्षेत्रों में पाए जाते हैं।
2. इस वन के महत्त्वपूर्ण वृक्षों में साल, सागौन, पीपल, नीम और शीशम शामिल हैं।
3. देवदार, एक अत्यधिक मूल्यवान स्थानिक प्रजाति, मुख्य रूप से इस वन के पूर्वी भाग में पाई जाती है।

उपर्युक्त में से कितने कथन सही हैं?

(a) केवल एक

(b) केवल दो

(c) सभी तीन

(d) कोई भी नहीं

77. निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिये:

1. मॉनाकी अटलांटिक महासागर में सागर की सतह के नीचे स्थित एक पर्वत है।
2. ऊँचाई की दृष्टि से यह माउंट एवरेस्ट से भी ऊँचा है।

उपर्युक्त कथनों में से कौन-सा/से सही है/हैं?

(a) केवल 1 *(b)* केवल 2

(c) 1 और 2 दोनों *(d)* न तो 1 और न ही 2

78. निम्नलिखित युग्मों पर विचार कीजिये:

उच्चतम शिखर		*देश*
1. माउंट किलिमंजारो	:	अर्जेंटीना
2. माउंट एकांकागुआ	:	तंजानिया
3. माउंट फूजीयामा	:	जापान

उपर्युक्त युग्मों में से कितने सही सुमेलित हैं?

(a) केवल एक युग्म

(b) केवल दो युग्म

(c) सभी तीन युग्म

(d) कोई भी नहीं

79. निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिये:

1. अटलांटिक महासागर विश्व का तीसरा सबसे बड़ा महासागर है।
2. अटलांटिक महासागर की तटरेखा दांतेदार है, जो इसे प्राकृतिक पत्तनों के लिये सहायक बनाती है।

उपर्युक्त कथनों में से कौन-सा/से सही है/हैं?

(a) केवल 1

(b) केवल 2

(c) 1 और 2 दोनों

(d) न तो 1 और न ही 2

80. निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिये:

1. चट्टानों के छोटे-छोटे टुकड़े जो सूर्य के चारों ओर घूमते हैं, उल्कापिंड कहलाते हैं।
2. क्षुद्रग्रह पट्टी पृथ्वी और बृहस्पति की कक्षाओं के बीच पाए जाते हैं।

उपर्युक्त कथनों में से कौन-सा/से सही है/हैं?

(a) केवल 1 *(b)* केवल 2

(c) 1 और 2 दोनों *(d)* न तो 1 और न ही 2

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74. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I:

The strong gravitational pull exerted by the sun and the moon on the earth's surface causes the tides.

Statement-II:

Neap tides are formed when the sun, moon and earth are in the same line.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

(a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I.

(b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I.

(c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect.

(d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct.

75. Consider the following:

1. Benguela Current
2. Falkland Current
3. Oyashio Current

How many of the above currents are part of South Atlantic Ocean?

(a) Only one *(b)* Only two

(c) All three *(d)* None

76. With respect to deciduous forests consider the following statements:

1. They are found in the foothills of the Himalayas.
2. Important trees of this forest are Sal, Teak, Peepal, Neem and Shisham.
3. Deodar, a highly valued endemic species, grows mainly in the eastern part of this forest.

How many of the above statements are correct?

(a) Only one

(b) Only two

(c) All three

(d) None

77. Consider the following statements:

1. Mauna Kea in the Atlantic Ocean is an undersea mountain.
2. In terms of total height, Mauna Kea is higher than Mount Everest.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only *(b)* 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2 *(d)* Neither 1 nor 2

78. Consider the following pairs:

Highest Peak		*Country*
1. Mount Kilimanjaro	:	Argentina
2. Mount Aconcagua	:	Tanzania
3. Mount Fujiyama	:	Japan

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

(a) Only one pair

(b) Only two pairs

(c) All three pairs

(d) None

79. Consider the following statements:

1. The Atlantic Ocean is the third largest ocean in the world.
2. The coastline of the Atlantic Ocean is indented making it ideal for natural harbours.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

80. Consider the following statements:

1. The small pieces of rocks which move around the sun are called meteoroids.
2. Asteroid belts are found between orbits of Earth and Jupiter.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only *(b)* 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2 *(d)* Neither 1 nor 2

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81. उष्णकटिबंधीय सदाबहार वनों के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिये:

1. ये पश्चिमी घाट के पश्चिमी ढाल पर, उत्तरपूर्वी क्षेत्र की पहाड़ियों पर तथा अंडमान और निकोबार द्वीप समूह में पाए जाते हैं।
2. ये उन उष्ण और आर्द्र क्षेत्रों में पाए जाते हैं जहाँ वार्षिक वर्षा 200 सेमी. से अधिक होती है और औसत वार्षिक तापमान 22 डिग्री सेल्सियस से अधिक रहता है।
3. इनमें पाई जाने वाली मुख्य प्रजातियाँ बबूल, बेर, जंगली खजूर, खैर, नीम, खेजड़ी और पलास हैं।

उपर्युक्त में से कितने कथन सही हैं?

(a) केवल एक *(b)* केवल दो
(c) सभी तीन *(d)* कोई भी नहीं

82. निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिये:

1. अक्षांश समांतर के विपरीत, सभी देशांतर समान लंबाई के होते हैं।
2. दोपहर का सूर्य कर्क रेखा और मकर रेखा से परे किसी भी अक्षांश पर कभी भी सिर के ऊपर नहीं चमकता है।

उपर्युक्त कथनों में से कौन-सा/से सही है/हैं?

(a) केवल 1 *(b)* केवल 2
(c) 1 और 2 दोनों *(d)* न तो 1 और न ही 2

83. निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिये:

1. महान हिमालय का मूल भाग ग्रेनाइट का बना है।
2. प्रायद्वीपीय पठार आग्नेय तथा कायांतरित शैलों वाली कम ऊँची पहाड़ियों एवं चौड़ी घाटियों से बना है।
3. हिमालय पर्वत की ऊँचाई में भिन्नता पूर्वी भाग की तुलना में पश्चिमी भाग में अधिक है।

उपर्युक्त में से कितने कथन सही हैं?

(a) केवल एक *(b)* केवल दो
(c) सभी तीन *(d)* कोई भी नहीं

84. निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिये:

1. पश्चिमी घाट, पूर्वी घाट की अपेक्षा ऊँचे हैं।
2. पश्चिमी घाट का विस्तार सतत् नहीं हैं। ये अनियमित हैं एवं बंगाल की खाड़ी में गिरने वाली नदियाँ इन्हें प्रतिच्छेदित करती हैं।

उपर्युक्त कथनों में से कौन-सा/से सही है/हैं?

(a) केवल 1 *(b)* केवल 2
(c) 1 और 2 दोनों *(d)* न तो 1 और न ही 2

85. निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिये:

1. चिल्का झील भारत की सबसे बड़ी खारे पानी की लैगून है।
2. गोदावरी नदी पर स्थित माजोली विश्व का सबसे बड़ा नदीय द्वीप है।

उपर्युक्त कथनों में से कौन-सा/से सही है/हैं?

(a) केवल 1 *(b)* केवल 2
(c) 1 और 2 दोनों *(d)* न तो 1 और न ही 2

86. निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिये:

1. नर्मदा का उद्गम मध्य प्रदेश में अमरकंटक की पहाड़ियों से होता है।
2. नर्मदा बेसिन मध्य प्रदेश और गुजरात के बड़े क्षेत्रों और महाराष्ट्र तथा छत्तीसगढ़ के तुलनात्मक रूप से कम क्षेत्र को शामिल करती है।

उपर्युक्त कथनों में से कौन-सा/से सही है/हैं?

(a) केवल 1 *(b)* केवल 2
(c) 1 और 2 दोनों *(d)* न तो 1 और न ही 2

87. निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिये:

1. अक्षांश, समुद्र तल से ऊँचाई और ऋतुओं में अंतर एक दिन में प्राप्त होने वाले सूर्य के प्रकाश की अवधि को प्रभावित करता है।
2. किसी स्थान की वनस्पति तापमान, वायु की आर्द्रता, वर्षा और क्षेत्र की स्थलाकृति से निर्धारित होती है।

उपर्युक्त कथनों में से कौन-सा/से सही है/हैं?

(a) केवल 1 *(b)* केवल 2
(c) 1 और 2 दोनों *(d)* न तो 1 और न ही 2

88. कावेरी नदी के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिये:

1. यह नदी पश्चिमी घाट की ब्रह्मगिरि श्रेणी से निकलती है।
2. इसकी मुख्य सहायक नदियाँ अमरावती, भवानी, हेमावती और कबानी हैं।

उपर्युक्त कथनों में से कौन-सा/से सही है/हैं?

(a) केवल 1 *(b)* केवल 2
(c) 1 और 2 दोनों *(d)* न तो 1 और न ही 2

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81. Consider the following statements with reference to Tropical evergreen forests:

1. They are found in the western slope of the Western Ghats, hills of the northeastern region and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
2. They are found in warm and humid areas with an annual precipitation of over 200 cm and mean annual temperature above 22° Celsius.
3. Important species found are babool, ber, wild date palm, khair, neem, khejri and palas.

How many of the above statements are correct?

(a) Only one *(b)* Only two
(c) All three *(d)* None

82. Consider the following statements:

1. Unlike parallels of latitude, all meridians are of equal length.
2. The mid-day sun never shines overhead on any latitude beyond the tropic of Cancer and the tropic of Capricorn.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only *(b)* 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 *(d)* Neither 1 nor 2

83. Consider the following statements:

1. The core of Great Himalayas is composed of granite.
2. The peninsular plateau is composed of igneous and metamorphic rocks with gently rising hills and wide valleys.
3. The altitudinal variation of Himalayan mountains are greater in the western half than those in eastern half.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

(a) Only one *(b)* Only two
(c) All three *(d)* None

84. Consider the following statements:

1. The Western ghats are higher than the Eastern Ghats.
2. The Western ghats are discontinuous and irregular and dissected by rivers draining into the Bay of Bengal.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only *(b)* 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 *(d)* Neither 1 nor 2

85. Consider the following statements:

1. The Chilika lake is the largest saltwater lagoon in India.
2. Majuli in the Godavari River is the largest inhabited riverine island in the world.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only *(b)* 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 *(d)* Neither 1 nor 2

86. Consider the following statements:

1. The Narmada rises in the Amarkantak hills in Madhya Pradesh.
2. The Narmada basin covers large areas parts of Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and a comparatively smaller area in Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only *(b)* 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 *(d)* Neither 1 nor 2

87. Consider the following statements:

1. Differences in latitude, altitude and the seasons affects the duration of the sunlight received in a day.
2. The vegetation of a place is determined by temperature, humidity of the air, precipitation and topography of the region.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only *(b)* 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 *(d)* Neither 1 nor 2

88. Consider the following statements with reference to Kaveri River:

1. The river rises in the Brahmagiri range of the western ghats.
2. Its main tributaries are Amravati, Bhavani, Hemavati and Kabani.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only *(b)* 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 *(d)* Neither 1 nor 2

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89. निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिये:

1. एल-नीनो भूमध्यरेखीय उष्ण सागरीय धारा का विस्तार मात्र है, जो अस्थायी रूप से ठंडी पेरूवियन अथवा हम्बोल्ट धारा पर प्रतिस्थापित हो जाती है।
2. एल-नीनो भारतीय उपमहाद्वीप में मानसून को प्रभावित करता है।

उपर्युक्त कथनों में से कौन-सा/से सही है/हैं?

(a) केवल 1 *(b)* केवल 2
(c) 1 और 2 दोनों *(d)* न तो 1 और न ही 2

90. भारत की भौतिक विशेषताओं के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिये:

1. कठोर और स्थिर प्रायद्वीपीय खंड के विपरीत, हिमालय अपनी भूवैज्ञानिक संरचना में तरुण, दुर्बल और लचीली है।
2. भाबर एक संकीर्ण क्षेत्र है जहाँ धाराएँ और नदियाँ बिना किसी उचित सीमांकित चैनल के पुन: उद्गमित होती हैं और दलदली स्थिति पैदा करती हैं।
3. ब्रह्मपुत्र का मैदान अपने नदीय द्वीपों और बालू रोधिकाओं के लिये जाना जाता है।

उपर्युक्त में से कितने कथन सही हैं?

(a) केवल एक
(b) केवल दो
(c) सभी तीन
(d) कोई भी नहीं

91. भारत के द्वीप समूह के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिये:

1. अंडमान के द्वीप 10 डिग्री चैनल द्वारा निकोबार द्वीप समूह से अलग होते हैं।
2. भारत का एकमात्र सक्रिय ज्वालामुखी बैरन द्वीप भी निकोबार द्वीप समूह में स्थित है।
3. निकोबार पर स्थित माउंट थुईल्लर अंडमान और निकोबार द्वीप समूह की सबसे ऊँची चोटी है।
4. लक्षद्वीप और मिनिकॉय द्वीप समूह पूरी तरह से प्रवाल निक्षेप से निर्मित है।
5. यहाँ लगभग 36 द्वीप हैं जिनमें सभी मूल जनजातियाँ निवास करती हैं।

उपर्युक्त कथनों में से कौन-सा/से सही है/हैं?

(a) केवल 1, 2 और 3
(b) केवल 1, 2, और 4
(c) केवल 1, 2, 3 और 4
(d) 1, 2, 3, 4 और 5

92. निम्नलिखित युग्मों पर विचार कीजिये:

नदी		*उद्गम स्थल*
1. सिंधु	:	बोखर चू हिमनद
2. सतलज	:	राक्षस ताल
3. अलकनंदा	:	सतोपथ हिमनद
4. चंबल	:	अरावली की पहाड़ियाँ

उपर्युक्त में से कितने युग्म सही सुमेलित है?

(a) केवल एक युग्म
(b) केवल दो युग्म
(c) केवल तीन युग्म
(d) सभी चारों युग्म

93. निम्नलिखित कारकों पर विचार कीजिये:

1. अक्षांश
2. समुद्र तल से ऊँचाई
3. देशांतर
4. हिमालय पर्वत
5. समुद्र तट से दूरी
6. स्थानीय उच्चावच विशेषताएँ

उपर्युक्त कारकों में से कौन-सा भारत की जलवायु पर प्रभाव डालता है?

(a) केवल 1, 2 और 3
(b) केवल 1, 2, 3 और 4
(c) केवल 2, 4, 5 और 6
(d) केवल 1, 2, 4, 5 और 6

94. रोज़वुड, महोगनी और एबनी वृक्षों की प्रजातियाँ निम्नलिखित में से किस प्रकार के वनों में पाई जाती हैं?

(a) उष्णकटिबंधीय सदाबहार वन
(b) उष्णकटिबंधीय पर्णपाती वन
(c) उष्णकटिबंधीय कांटेदार वन
(d) तटीय एवं दलदली वन

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89. Consider the following statements:

1. EI-Nino is merely an extension of the warm equatorial current which gets replaced temporarily by cold Humboldt current.
2. El Nino affects the monsoon on the Indian subcontinent.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

(a) 1 only *(b)* 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 *(d)* Neither 1 nor 2

90. With reference to physical features of India, consider the following statements:

1. The Himalayas are young, weak and flexible in their geological structure unlike the rigid and stable Peninsular Block.
2. Bhabar is a narrow belt where streams and rivers re-emerge without having any properly demarcated channel creating marshy and swampy conditions.
3. The Brahmaputra plains are known for their riverine islands and sand bars.

How many of the above statements are correct?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

91. Consider the following statements with reference to Island group of India:

1. The islands of Andaman are separated from Nicobar group of islands by 10-degree channel.
2. Barren island, the only active volcano in India is also situated in the Nicobar Islands.
3. Mt. Thuiller situated on Nicobar is the highest peak of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
4. The island group of Lakshadweep and Minicoy is entirely built of coral deposits.
5. There are approximately 36 islands all are inhabited by indigenous tribes.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1, 2 and 3 only
(b) 1, 2 and 4 only.
(c) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

92. Consider the following pairs:

	River		*Origin*
1.	Indus	:	Bokhar Chu glacier
2.	Sutlej	:	Rakas Tal
3.	Alaknanda	:	Satopath glacier
4.	Chambal	:	Aravalli hills

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

(a) Only one pair
(b) Only two pairs
(c) Only three pair
(d) All four pairs

93. Consider the following factors:

1. Latitude
2. Altitude
3. Longitude
4. Himalaya mountain
5. Distance from sea
6. Local relief features

Which of the above factors have an impact on India's climate?

(a) 1, 2 and 3 only
(b) 1,2, 3 and 4 only
(c) 2, 4, 5 and 6 only
(d) 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6 only

94. Rosewood, Mohogany and Ebony are species of trees that grow in which of the following type of forests?

(a) Tropical Evergreen forests
(b) Tropical Deciduous forests
(c) Tropical Thorn forests
(d) Littoral and Swamp forests.

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95. निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिये:

1. उपराष्ट्रपति राज्यसभा का पदेन अध्यक्ष होता है।
2. संविधान के अनुच्छेद 79 में राज्यसभा के सभापति और उपसभापति का प्रावधान है।
3. कृष्ण कांत दूसरे उपराष्ट्रपति थे जिनकी मृत्यु उनके कार्यकाल के दौरान हुई थी।

उपर्युक्त कथनों में से कौन-सा/से सही है/हैं?

(a) केवल 1 *(b)* केवल 3
(c) केवल 1 और 2 *(d)* केवल 2 और 3

96. सहकारी समितियों के संदर्भ में, निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिये:

1. संविधान का भाग IXB सहकारी समितियों को संवैधानिक दर्जा प्रदान करता है और इसमें उनके लोकतांत्रिक कार्यप्रणाली से संबंधित प्रावधान शामिल हैं।
2. सहकारी समितियों के उन्नयन का प्रावधान राज्य की नीति के निदेशक तत्त्वों के रूप में किया गया ।
3. एक से अधिक राज्यों की सहकारी समितियाँ बहु-राज्य सहकारी समितियाँ अधिनियम, 2002 के तहत पंजीकृत हैं।

उपर्युक्त में से कितने कथन सही हैं?

(a) केवल एक *(b)* केवल दो
(c) सभी तीन *(d)* कोई भी नहीं

97. निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिये:

1. वित्त विधेयक में सरकार के व्यय के वित्तपोषण पर प्रावधान मिलता हैं, जबकि एक विनियोग विधेयक धन निकासी की मात्रा और उद्देश्य को निर्दिष्ट करता है।
2. विनियोग और वित्त विधेयक दोनों को धन विधेयक के रूप में वर्गीकृत किया गया है जिसके लिये राज्यसभा की स्पष्ट सहमति की आवश्यकता नहीं होती है।
3. सभी धन विधेयक वित्त विधेयक हैं किंतु सभी वित्त विधेयक धन विधेयक नहीं हैं।

उपर्युक्त में से कितने कथन सही हैं?

(a) केवल एक *(b)* केवल दो
(c) सभी तीन *(d)* कोई भी नहीं

98. निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिये:

1. प्रधानमंत्री कौशल को काम कार्यक्रम (PMKKK) को अल्पसंख्यक कार्य मंत्रालय द्वारा प्रधानमंत्री विरासत का संवर्द्धन (PM VIKAS) योजना के रूप में नया नाम दिया गया है।
2. यह एक केंद्र प्रायोजित योजना है, जो देश भर में अल्पसंख्यक और शिल्पकार समुदायों के कौशल, उद्यमिता एवं नेतृत्व प्रशिक्षण आवश्यकताओं पर केंद्रित है।
3. हमारी धरोहर भारत के अल्पसंख्यक समुदायों की समृद्ध विरासत को संरक्षित करने के लिये तैयार की गई है।

उपर्युक्त में से कितने कथन सही हैं?

(a) केवल एक *(b)* केवल दो
(c) सभी तीन *(d)* कोई भी नहीं

99. निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिये:

1. सामाजिक प्रगति सूचकांक (SPI) को प्रतिस्पर्द्धात्मकता और सामाजिक प्रगति अनिवार्यता संस्थान द्वारा संकलित किया गया था।
2. भारत के राज्यों और ज़िलों के लिये सामाजिक प्रगति सूचकांक (SPI) प्रधानमंत्री की आर्थिक सलाहकार परिषद (EAC-PM) द्वारा जारी किया गया था।

उपर्युक्त कथनों में से कौन-सा/से सही है/हैं?

(a) केवल 1 *(b)* केवल 2
(c) 1 और 2 दोनों *(d)* न तो 1 और न ही 2

100. निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिये:

1. हर वर्ष 26 जनवरी को संविधान दिवस मनाया जाता है।
2. वर्ष 1934 में एम.एन. रॉय ने पहली बार संविधान सभा का विचार रखा।
3. वर्ष 1946 में कैबिनेट मिशन योजना के तहत संविधान सभा के गठन के लिये चुनाव हुए।

उपर्युक्त में से कितने कथन सही हैं?

(a) केवल एक *(b)* केवल दो
(c) सभी तीन *(d)* कोई भी नहीं

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95. Consider the following statements:

1. The Vice-President is the ex-officio chairman of the Rajya Sabha.
2. Article 79 of the Constitution provides for the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.
3. Krishna kant was the second vice-president to die in office.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only *(b)* 3 only
(c) 1 and 2 only *(d)* 2 and 3 only

96. With reference to cooperative societies, consider the following statements:

1. Part IXB of the Constitution grants constitutional status to co-operative societies and contains provisions for their democratic functioning.
2. Promotion of cooperative societies is included as a Directive Principles of state policy in the Indian constitution.
3. Cooperatives of more than one state are registered under the Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act, 2002.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

(a) Only one *(b)* Only two
(c) All three *(d)* None

97. Consider the following statements:

1. While the Finance Bill contains provisions on financing the expenditure of the government, an Appropriation Bill specifies the quantum and purpose for withdrawing money.
2. Both Appropriation and Finance Bills are classified as Money Bills which do not require the explicit consent of the Rajya Sabha.
3. All money bill are financial bill but all financial bills are not money bills.

How many of the above statements are correct?

(a) Only one *(b)* Only two
(c) All three *(d)* None

98. Consider the following statements:

1. Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Ko Kaam Karyakram (PMKKK) has been named as Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan (PM VIKAS) Scheme by the Ministry of Minority Affairs.
2. It is a Centrally sponsored Scheme, which focuses on the skilling, entrepreneurship and leadership training requirements of the minority and artisan communities across the country.
3. Hamari Dharohar has been formulated to preserve rich heritage of minority communities of India.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

(a) Only one *(b)* Only two
(c) All three *(d)* None

99. Consider the following statements:

1. The Social Progress Index (SPI) was compiled by the Institute for Competitiveness and Social Progress Imperative.
2. The Social Progress Index (SPI) for States and Districts of India was released by the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only *(b)* 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 *(d)* Neither 1 nor 2

100. Consider the following statements:

1. Constitution Day is celebrated on 26th January every year.
2. In 1934, M N Roy first proposed the idea of a constituent assembly.
3. Under the Cabinet Mission plan of 1946, elections were held for the formation of the constituent assembly.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

(a) Only one *(b)* Only two
(c) All three *(d)* None

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CIVIL SERVICES (PRELIMINARY) TEST SERIES – 2024

DO NOT OPEN THIS TEST BOOKLET UNTIL YOU ARE ASKED TO DO SO

TEST BOOKLET SERIES

Test Code: P1/P2-2403

TEST BOOKLET
GENERAL STUDIES

TEST – 03

C

Time Allowed : Two Hours **Maximum Marks : 200**

INSTRUCTIONS

1. IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE EXAMINATION, YOU SHOULD CHECK THAT THIS TEST BOOKLET *DOES NOT* HAVE ANY UNPRINTED OR TORN OR MISSING PAGES OR ITEMS, ETC. IF SO, GET IT REPLACED BY A COMPLETE TEST BOOKLET.
2. ENCODE CLEARLY THE TEST BOOKLET SERIES CODE **A, B, C** OR **D** AS THE CASE MAY BE IN THE APPROPRIATE PLACE IN THE ANSWER SHEET.
3. You have to enter your Roll Number on the Test Booklet in the Box provided alongside this line. *DO NOT* write *anything else* on the Test Booklet.
4. This Test Booklet contains 100 items (questions). Each question is printed both in **Hindi** and **English**. Each item comprises four responses (answers). You will select the response which you want to mark on the Answer Sheet. In case you feel that there is more than one correct response, mark the response which you consider the best. In any case, choose ONLY ONE response for each item.
5. You have to mark all your responses ONLY on the separate Answer Sheet provided. See directions in the Answer sheet.
6. All items carry equal marks.
7. Before you proceed to mark in the Answer Sheet the response to various items in the Test Booklet, you have to fill in some particulars in the Answer Sheet as per instructions sent to you with your admission certificate.
8. After you have completed filling in all your responses on the Answer Sheet and examination has concluded, you should hand over to the Invigilator *only the Answer Sheet*. You are permitted to take away with you the Test Booklet.
9. Sheets for rough work are appended in the Test Booklet at the end.
10. **Penalty for wrong answers:**
    THERE WILL BE PENALTY FOR WRONG ANSWERS MARKED BY A CANDIDATE IN THE OBJECTIVE TYPE QUESTION PAPERS.
    (i) There are four alternatives for the answer to every question. For each question for which a wrong answer has been given by the candidate, **One-Third** of the marks assigned to that question will be deducted as penalty.
    (ii) If a candidate gives more than one answer, it will be treated as a **wrong answer** even if one of the given answers happens to be correct and there will be same penalty as above to that question.
    (iii) If a question is left blank, i.e., no answer is given by the candidate, there will be no **penalty** for that question.

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CIVIL SERVICES (PRELIMINARY) TEST SERIES – 2024

TEST BOOKLET SERIES

Test Code: P1/P2-2403

(English Version)

ANSWER & EXPLANATION

GENERAL STUDIES

TEST – 03

C

ANSWERS

Q. No.	Answers	Q. No.	Answers	Q. No.	Answers	Q. No.	Answers
1	(b)	26	(b)	51	(a)	76	(b)
2	(d)	27	(b)	52	(b)	77	(b)
3	(c)	28	(c)	53	(c)	78	(a)
4	(c)	29	(a)	54	(a)	79	(b)
5	(b)	30	(b)	55	(b)	80	(a)
6	(d)	31	(c)	56	(c)	81	(b)
7	(c)	32	(b)	57	(c)	82	(c)
8	(c)	33	(c)	58	(d)	83	(b)
9	(b)	34	(d)	59	(d)	84	(a)
10	(a)	35	(d)	60	(b)	85	(a)
11	(d)	36	(c)	61	(b)	86	(c)
12	(a)	37	(b)	62	(b)	87	(c)
13	(b)	38	(c)	63	(c)	88	(c)
14	(a)	39	(b)	64	(c)	89	(c)
15	(b)	40	(b)	65	(a)	90	(b)
16	(a)	41	(c)	66	(d)	91	(b)
17	(c)	42	(a)	67	(b)	92	(c)
18	(b)	43	(b)	68	(b)	93	(d)
19	(b)	44	(b)	69	(b)	94	(a)
20	(b)	45	(c)	70	(a)	95	(a)
21	(d)	46	(d)	71	(c)	96	(c)
22	(a)	47	(a)	72	(b)	97	(c)
23	(b)	48	(d)	73	(b)	98	(b)
24	(c)	49	(a)	74	(c)	99	(c)
25	(b)	50	(c)	75	(b)	100	(b)

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1. (b)

Explanation:

Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve:

- It is a part of Tirunelveli and Kanyakumari districts in **Tamil Nadu** and Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam and Pathanmthitta districts in **Kerala.** It does not cover Karnataka. **Hence, statement (1) is NOT correct.**
- Agasthyamalai is home to **tropical evergreen forest** as they are part of Western Ghat. Along with these temperate forests**, Sholas** are also found here in mountainous or hilly regions. **Hence, statement (2) is correct.**
- Located in the **Western Ghats** in the south of the country, the Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve has peaks reaching 1,868 m above sea level. Consisting mostly of tropical forest, the site is home to approx 2,254 species of higher plants including about 400 that are endemic.
- It is also a unique genetic reservoir of cultivated plants, in particular **cardamom, jamun, nutmeg, pepper and plantain.**
- Three wildlife sanctuaries, **Shendurney, Peppara and Neyyar,** are located in the site, as well as the **Kalakad Mundanthurai** Tiger reserve.
- The reserve is home to **Kani tribes** from both Tamil Nadu and Kerala.
- This biosphere reserve is also a part of UNESCO Man and Biosphere (MAB) programme. **Hence statement (3) is correct.**
- India has total **18 Biosphere Reserves out which 12 are part of UNESCO** Man and Biosphere (MAB) programme.

2. (d)

Explanation:

There are **three stages in the evolution** of the Earth's atmosphere:

- The first stage is marked by **the loss of primordial atmosphere. Hence, statement (1) is correct.**
- In the second stage, the **hot interior of the earth contributed to the evolution of the atmosphere. Hence, statement (2) is correct.**
- Finally, the composition of the atmosphere was modified by the living world through the **process of photosynthesis. Hence statement (3) is correct.**
- The early atmosphere, with hydrogen and helium, is supposed to have been stripped off as a result of the **solar winds.**
- During the cooling of the earth, gases and water vapour were released from the interior solid earth. This started the evolution of the present atmosphere.
- The early atmosphere **largely contained water vapour, nitrogen, carbon dioxide, methane, ammonia and very little of free oxygen.** The process through which the gases were outpoured from the interior is called **degassing.**
- Around 2,500-3,000 million years ago, **the process of photosynthesis evolved.** Life was confined to the oceans for a long time. Oceans began to make the contribution of oxygen through the process of photosynthesis.
- Eventually, **oceans were saturated with oxygen,** and 2,000 million years ago, oxygen began to flood the atmosphere.

3. (c)

Explanation:

- Most of our knowledge about the interior of the earth is largely based on **estimates and inferences.** Yet, a part of the information is obtained through direct observations and analysis of materials. These can be divided into two: **Direct sources and indirect sources.**

Direct sources:

- The most easily available solid earth material is surface rock or the rocks we get from **mining areas.**
- But as mining and drilling are not practically possible beyond a certain depth, they don't reveal much information about the earth's interior.
- **Volcanic eruption** forms another source of obtaining direct information.

Indirect Sources:

- **Meteors**
- **Gravitation, magnetic field, and seismic activity.**
- The study of **seismic waves** provides a complete picture of the layered interior.

Hence, option (c) is correct.

4. (c)

Explanation:

- **Earthquake waves** are basically of two types — **body waves and surface waves.**
- Body waves are generated due to the **release of energy at the focus** and move in all directions travelling through the body of the earth. Hence, the name body waves.

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- The **body waves interact with the surface** rocks and generate **new set of waves called surface waves.** These waves move along the surface. The velocity of waves changes as they travel through materials with different densities.
- The **denser the material, the higher is the velocity.** Their direction also changes as they reflect or refract when coming across materials with different densities.
- There are two types of **body waves.** They are called **P and S-waves.**
- **P-waves move faster and are the first to arrive at the surface.** These are also called 'primary waves'. The **P-waves are similar to sound waves.** They travel through gaseous, liquid and solid materials. **Hence, statement (2) is correct.**
- **S-waves arrive at the surface with some time lag.** These are called secondary waves.
- An important fact about S-waves is that they can travel only through solid materials. **Hence, statement (3) is correct.**
- **The surface waves are the last to report on seismograph.** These waves are **more destructive. Hence, statements (1) and (4) are NOT correct.**
- They cause displacement of rocks, and hence, the collapse of structures occurs. Surface waves are the most damaging waves. They are transverse waves.

5. (b)

Explanation:

- Tropical cyclones are **intense low-pressure areas** confined to the area **lying between 30° N and 30° S latitudes,** in the atmosphere around which high velocity winds blow. Horizontally, it extends up to **500-1,000 km and vertically** from surface to 12-14 km. However, some initial conditions for the emergence of a tropical cyclone are:
  - Large and continuous supply of **warm and moist air** that can release enormous **latent heat.**
  - **Strong Coriolis force** that can prevent filling of low pressure at the centre (absence of Coriolis force near the equator prohibits the formation of tropical cyclone between 0°-5° latitude).
  - Unstable condition through the troposphere that creates local disturbances around which a cyclone develops.
  - Finally, absence of **strong vertical wind wedge,** which disturbs the vertical transport of latent heat.
  - **High pressure** and areas between **0°-5° latitude** due to absence of Coriolis force are **not favourable conditions** to develop tropical cyclones.

Hence, option (b) is correct.

6. (d)

Explanation:

- The term **'drought'** is applied to an extended period when there is a shortage of water availability due to **inadequate precipitation, excessive rate of evaporation and over-utilisation of water** from the reservoirs and other storages, including the ground water.
- Drought is a **complex phenomenon** as it involves elements of meteorology like precipitation, evaporation, evapo-transpiration, ground water, soil moisture, storage and surface run-off, agricultural practices, particularly the types of crops grown, socio-economic practices and ecological conditions.
- **Types of Droughts:**
  - **Meteorological Drought:** It is a situation when there is a prolonged period of inadequate rainfall marked with disproportionate distribution of the same over time and space. **Hence, statement (1) is NOT correct.**
  - **Agricultural Drought:** It is **also known as soil moisture drought, characterised by low soil moisture** that is necessary to support the crops, thereby resulting in crop failures. Moreover, if an area has more than 30 per cent of its gross cropped area under irrigation, the area is excluded from the drought-prone category.
  - **Hydrological Drought:** It results when the availability of water in different storages and reservoirs like aquifers, lakes, etc. falls below what the precipitation can replenish. **Hence, statement (2) is NOT correct.**
  - **Ecological Drought:** When the productivity of a natural ecosystem fails due to shortage of water and as a consequence of ecological distress, damages are induced in the ecosystem.

7. (c)

Explanation:

- **Mango Shower:** Towards the end of summer, there are **pre-monsoon showers** which are a common

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phenomenon in **Kerala and coastal areas of Karnataka.** Locally, they are known as mango showers since they help in the early ripening of mangoes. **Hence, pair (1) is correctly matched.**

- **Blossom Shower:** With this shower, coffee flowers blossom in **Kerala** and nearby areas. **Hence, pair (2) is correctly matched.**
- **Nor Westers:** These are dreaded evening thunderstorms in Bengal and Assam. Their notorious nature can be understood from the local nomenclature of **'Kalbaisakhi',** a calamity of the month of Baisakh. These showers are useful for tea, jute and rice cultivation. In **Assam,** these storms are known as **"Bardoisila". Hence, pair (3) is correctly matched.**
- **Loo:** Hot, dry and oppressing winds blowing in the **Northern plains from Punjab to Bihar** with higher intensity between Delhi and Patna.

8. (c)

Explanation:

- **The Inter Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ)** is a broad trough of **low pressure** in equatorial latitudes. This is where the northeast and the southeast trade winds converge and **ascend**. **Hence, statement (1) is correct.**
- This convergence zone lies more or less parallel to the equator but moves north or south with the apparent movement of the sun. The **location of ITCZ shifts north and south of the equator** with the apparent movement of the Sun.
- During the month of June, the sun shines vertically over the Tropic of Cancer and the ITCZ shifts northwards. In the month of July, the **ITCZ shifts to 20°-25° N latitude** and is located in the Indo-Gangetic Plain and the south-west monsoons blow from the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal. The ITCZ in this position is often called the **Monsoon Trough.** This **monsoon trough** encourages the development of thermal low over north and north-west India. **Hence, statement (2) is correct.**
- Due to the shift of ITCZ, the trade winds of southern hemisphere cross the equator between 40° and 60° E longitudes and start blowing from southwest to northeast due to the Coriolis force. It becomes southwest monsoon. In winter, the ITCZ moves southward, and **so the reversal of winds from northeast to south and southwest takes place.** They are called northeast monsoons. **Hence, statement (3) is correct.**

9. (b)

Explanation:

- **Alluvial soils** are widespread in the northern plains and the river valleys. This soil covers about **40 per cent** of the total area of the country. **Hence statement (1) is NOT correct.**
  - They are depositional soils, transported and deposited by rivers and streams.
  - The **alluvial soils vary in nature from sandy loam to clay.** They are generally rich in potash but poor in phosphorous.
  - In the Upper and Middle Ganga plain, two different types of alluvial soils have developed, viz. **Khadar and Bhangar.**
- **Black soil,** also known as **regur soil** or black cotton soil, is ideal for growing cotton. The climatic conditions along with the parent rock material are the important factors for the formation of black soil.
  - Black soil is typical of the **Deccan trap (Basalt)** region spread over northwest Deccan plateau and is made up of lava flows (fissure volcanic rock). **Hence, statement (2) is correct.**
- **Red soil** develops on crystalline igneous rocks in areas of low rainfall in the eastern and southern part of the Deccan Plateau. **Hence, statement (3) is correct.**
  - Along the **piedmont zone of the Western Ghat,** long stretch of area is occupied by red loamy soil. Yellow and red soils are also found in parts of Odisha and Chhattisgarh and in the southern parts of the middle Ganga plain.
  - The soil develops a **reddish colour** due to a wide diffusion of **iron in crystalline and metamorphic rocks.** It looks yellow when it occurs in a hydrated form.

10. (a)

Explanation:

- **Winter monsoons** do not cause rainfall as they move from land to the sea. It is because firstly, they have little humidity; and secondly, due to anti cyclonic circulation on land, the possibility of rainfall from them reduces. So, most parts of India do not have rainfall in the winter season.
- However, there are some exceptions to it. In northwestern India, some weak temperate cyclones from the Mediterranean Sea cause rainfall **in Punjab, Haryana,**

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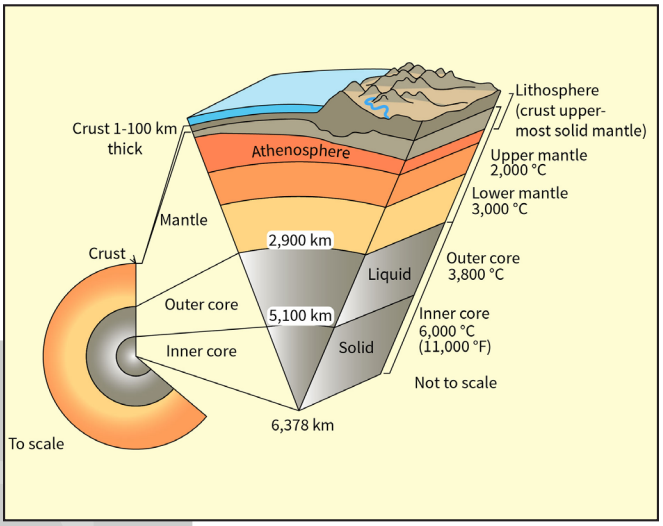
Delhi and western Uttar Pradesh. Although the amount is meagre, it is highly beneficial for rabi crops. **Hence, statement (2) is NOT correct.**

- The **Tamil Nadu coast remains dry during Southwest monsoon season.** There are two factors responsible for it:
  - The Tamil Nadu coast is situated parallel to the Bay of Bengal branch of southwest monsoon.
  - It lies in the rain shadow area of the Arabian Sea branch of the south-west monsoon. **Hence, statement (1) is NOT correct.**
- The monsoon rains occur in **wet spells of few days duration at a time. The wet spells are interspersed with rainless interval known as 'breaks'.** These breaks in rainfall are related to the cyclonic depressions mainly formed at the head of the Bay of Bengal, and their crossing into the mainland.
- Besides the frequency and intensity of these depressions, the passage followed by them determines the spatial distribution of rainfall. **Hence, statement (3) is correct.**

11. (d)

Explanation:

- The Earth's crust and mantle make up the planet's outer structure, playing distinct roles in its composition and dynamics.
- The **Earth's crust is the outermost layer, consisting of solid rock** that covers the entire surface. It can be divided into two types: **continental crust** and **oceanic crust.**
- The **crust is where all terrestrial life exists,** including mountains, oceans, and continents. It also hosts various geological processes like earthquakes and volcanic eruptions due to its dynamic nature.
- Beneath the crust lies the **mantle, a semi-solid layer extending to a depth** of about **2,900 kilometers** (1,800 miles). The **mantle consists of solid rock that can flow over geological timescales, a phenomenon known as mantle convection.** This slow movement of the mantle is responsible for driving plate tectonics
- **Lithosphere is a layer which is made of crust and uppermost solid part of mantle.it is 10–200 km in thickness.** It **does not include Asthenosphere.**
- **The upper portion of the mantle is called asthenosphere.** The word 'astheno' means weak. It extends up to 400 km. It is the main source of magma that finds its way to the surface during volcanic eruptions. **Hence, statement (1) is NOT correct.**
- The core mantle boundary is located at the depth of 2,900 km. T**he outer core is in liquid state while the inner core is in solid state. Hence, statement (2) is NOT correct.**



12. (a)

Explanation:

- **Flood Basalt Province:** The volcanoes outpour highly fluid lava that flows for long distances. Some parts of the world are covered by thousands of sq. km of thick basalt lava flows. **The area, thus, covered with this lava is known as flood basalt province.**
- **The Deccan Traps from India, presently covering most of the Maharashtra plateau, are a much larger flood basalt province.** It is believed that initially the trap formations covered a much larger area than the present. **Hence, statement (1) is correct.**
- **Narcondam Island** is a 6.8 km² oceanic **island of volcanic origin** located about 240 km northeast of Port Blair in the **Andaman Islands,** in the Bay of Bengal. The boundaries are clearly defined, being an isolated island. **However, Barren Island is the only active volcano in India is also situated in the Nicobar Islands. Hence, statement (2) is NOT correct**.
- **Mid-Oceanic Ridge Volcanoes:** These volcanoes occur in the oceanic areas. There is a system of mid-oceanic ridges more than 70,000 km long that stretches through all the ocean basins. The central portion of this ridge experiences frequent eruptions. **Hence, statement (3) is NOT correct.**

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13. (b)

Explanation:

- **Craton:** A craton is a large, coherent domain of **Earth's continental crust** that has attained and maintained long-term stability, having undergone little internal deformation, except perhaps near its margins due to interaction with neighbouring terranes.
- Stable continental crust is a product of **intense magmatic, tectonic,** and **metamorphic reworking;** hence, cratons consist of polydeformed and metamorphosed crystalline and metamorphic rocks (e.g., typically "granite-greenstone terrains" in the most ancient cratons).
- **Batholiths:** A large body of **magmatic material** that cools in the **deeper depth** of the crust develops in the form of large domes.
- They appear on the surface only after the denudational processes remove the overlying materials. They cover large areas, and at times, assume a depth that may be several kilometres. These are granitic bodies. Batholiths are the **cooled portion of magma chambers. Hence, option (b) is correct.**
- **Laccoliths:** These are large **dome-shaped intrusive bodies** with a level base and connected by a **pipe-like conduit** from below.
- It resembles the surface volcanic domes of composite volcano, only these are located at deeper depths. It can be regarded as the **localized source of lava** that finds its way to the surface.
- **Lapolith:** When the lava moves upwards, a portion of the same may tend to move in a **horizontal direction.** It may get rested in different forms.
- In case it develops into a **saucer shape,** concave to the sky body, it is called lapolith.

14. (a)

Explanation:

Tillite:

- It is a **sedimentary rock formed out of deposits of glaciers.** The Gondwana system of sediments from India is known to have its counterparts in six different landmasses of the Southern Hemisphere.
- At the base, **the system has thick tillite indicating extensive and prolonged glaciation.** Counterparts of this succession are found in India, Africa, Falkland Island, Madagascar, Antarctica and Australia.
- Overall resemblance of the Gondwana type sediments clearly demonstrates that these landmasses had remarkably similar histories. **The glacial tillite provides unambiguous evidence of palaeoclimates and also of drifting of continents. Hence option(a) is correct.**

15. (b)

Explanation:

- The **Indian plate includes Peninsular India and the Australian continental portions.** The subduction zone along the Himalayas forms the northern plate boundary in the form of continent-continent convergence. In the **east,** it extends through **Rakinyoma Mountains of Myanmar.** The **western** margin follows **Kirthar Mountain of Pakistan.** It further extends along the **Makrana coast** and joins the spreading site from the **Red Sea rift southeastward along the Chagos Archipelago.**
- The **boundary between India and the Antarctic plate is marked by oceanic ridge** (divergent boundary) running in **roughly West-East direction** and merging into the spreading site, a little south of New Zealand.
- **India was a large island situated off the Australian coast, in a vast ocean, the Tethys Sea separated from the Asian continent.**
- About 140 million years ago, **the subcontinent was located as south as 50-degree south latitude. The two major plates were separated by the Tethys Sea and the Tibetan block was closer to the Asiatic landmass.**
- During the **movement of the Indian plate towards the Eurasian plate**, a **major event** that occurred was the **outpouring of lava and formation of the Deccan Traps.**

Hence both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for statement-I.

16. (a)

Explanation:

There are three types of plate boundaries:

- **Divergent Boundaries: It occurs where new crust is generated as the plates pull away from each other.** The sites where the plates move away from each other are called spreading sites. The best-known example of divergent boundaries is the **Mid-Atlantic Ridge.** Therefore, they are constructive in nature. **Hence, statement (1) is NOT correct**.

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- **Convergent Boundaries: It occurs where the crust is destroyed as one plate dived under another.** The location **where sinking of a plate occurs** is called a subduction zone. There are three ways in which convergence can occur. These are: (i) between an oceanic and continental plate; (ii) between two oceanic plates; and (iii) between two continental plates. **Hence, statement (2) is NOT correct.**
- **Transform Boundaries: It is where the crust is neither produced nor destroyed as the plates slide horizontally past each other.** Transform faults are the planes of separation **generally perpendicular** to the mid-oceanic ridges. As the eruptions do not take all along the entire crest at the same time, there is a differential movement of a portion of the plate away from the axis of the earth. Also, the rotation of the earth has its effect on the separated blocks of the plate portions. **Hence, statement (3) is correct.**

17. (c)

Explanation:

- **The earth's crust is dynamic.** The **earth's surface is being continuously subjected to by external forces** originating within the earth's atmosphere and by **internal forces from within the earth.**
- **Geomorphic processes:** The endogenic and exogenic forces causing physical stresses and chemical actions on earth materials and bringing about changes in the configuration of the surface of the earth are known as geomorphic processes.
- **Any exogenic element of nature (like water, ice, wind, etc.,) capable of acquiring and transporting earth materials can be called a geomorphic agent.** When these elements of nature become mobile due to gradients, they remove the materials and transport them over slopes and deposit them at lower level. **Hence, options (1-5) are correct.**
- **Diastrophism and volcanism** are endogenic geomorphic processes. **Hence, option (6) is NOT correct.**
- Weathering, mass wasting, erosion and deposition are exogenic geomorphic processes.

18. (b)

Explanation:

- **Millets:** Millets are grown in **tropical as well as sub-tropical areas** up to an altitude of 2,100m. It is a **heat-loving plant** and for its germination the minimum temperature required is 8- 10°C. A mean temperature range of 26-29 degree Celsius during the growth is best for proper development and good crop yield.
- **Maize:** The crop is **used both as food and fodder.** It is a kharif crop which requires temperature between 21 degrees Celsius to 27 degrees Celsius. It grows well in old alluvial soil. In some states like Bihar, maize is grown in Rabi season also. Use of modern inputs such as high yeilding variety seeds (HYVs), fertilizers and irrigation have contributed to the increasing production of maize. **Hence, option (b) is correct.**
- **Sugarcane:** It grows well in **hot and humid climates** with a temperature of **21°C–27°C** and an annual rainfall between **75 cm-100 cm.** It can be grown in a variety of soils and needs manual labour from sowing to harvesting.
- **Rice:** It needs a **hot and humid climate.** It is best suited to regions which have high humidity, prolonged sunshine and an assured supply of water. It is a kharif crop which requires above **25°C temperature** with annual rainfall **above 100 cm.**

19. (b)

Explanation:

- **Bauxite is an aluminium ore** and is **primarily composed of aluminium oxide minerals,** with the three most common forms being **gibbsite, boehmite, and diaspore.**
- These minerals are typically found in varying proportions within **bauxite deposits, along with various impurities such as iron oxides, silica, and clay minerals.**
- The **extraction of aluminium** from bauxite is a multi-step process, with the **Bayer process** being the most employed method.
- In this process, bauxite ore is first crushed and then mixed with a sodium hydroxide solution at elevated temperatures. This chemical reaction results in the dissolution of aluminium oxide from the bauxite, leaving behind impurities. **The aluminium oxide is then subjected to electrolysis, where it is transformed into aluminium metal. Hence, option (b) is correct.**

20. (b)

Explanation:

- Recently, three sites- Gujarat's Vadnagar town, Sun Temple at Modhera, and the Rock-Cut Sculptures of

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Unakoti in Tripura have been added to the tentative list of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Sites. **Hence, statement (3) is NOT correct.**

- The Sun Temple at Modhera is located on the left bank of the river **Pushpavati,** a tributary of river Rupan in Becharaji taluka of Mehsana district. This **east-facing temple** is built with bright yellow sandstone.
- It is built in Maru-Gurjara architectural style.
- It consists of the main temple shrine (garbhagriha), a hall (gudhamandapa), an outer hall or assembly hall (Sabhamandapa or rangamandapa) and a sacred rectangular stepped tank (Surya Kunda), which is now called Ramakunda. **Hence, statement (1) is correct.**
- Every year, at the time of the equinoxes, the sun shines directly into this central shrine of the temple. **Hence, statement (2) is correct.**

21. (d)

Explanation:

- Aurobindo Ghose was born in **Calcutta** on **15th August 1872.** He was a yogi, seer, philosopher, poet, and Indian nationalist who propounded **a philosophy of divine life on earth through spiritual evolution.**
- Aurobindo's pragmatic strategies to get rid of British rule marked him as **"the Prophet of Indian Nationalism".**
- His early education began in a Christian convent school in Darjeeling. He entered the **University of Cambridge,** where he became proficient in two classical and several modern European languages.
- In 1892, he held various administrative posts in Baroda (Vadodara) and Calcutta (Kolkata). He began the study of Yoga and Indian languages, including classical Sanskrit.
- From **1902 to 1910** he took part in the struggle to free India from the British. The partition of Bengal in 1905 provoked Aurobindo to leave his job in Baroda and plunge into the nationalist movement. He edited the patriotic journal **Bande Mataram** to propagate radical methods and revolutionary tactics instead of supplication.
- He met Mirra Alfassa in Pondicherry, and their spiritual collaboration led to **Integral Yoga.** Integral Yoga is a yoga of Earth transformation. The aim of this yoga is not an escape from life or a shunning of worldly existence, but a radical change in our life even while living amidst it.
- He wrote **The Life Divine, The Mother and The Future Poetry. Hence, option (d) is correct.**

22. (a)

Explanation:

- National Mathematics Day (NMD) is observed every year on **22nd December** to mark the birth anniversary of Srinivasa Ramanujan. On the 125th birth anniversary of Ramanujan, NMD was announced by the then-Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in 2012.
- **The day is celebrated annually with the aim of making people aware of the importance of mathematics and advancements and developments made in the field.**

Contributions to Mathematics:

- **Formulae and Equations:** Ramanujan compiled around 3,900 results consisting of equations and identities. One of his most treasured findings was his infinite series for Pi. He gave several formulas to calculate the digits of Pi in many unconventional ways.
- **Game Theory:** He discovered a long list of new ideas to solve many challenging mathematical problems, which gave a significant impetus to the development of game theory. His contribution to game theory is purely based on intuition and natural talent and remains unrivalled to this day.
- **Ramanujan's Book:** One of Ramanujan's notebooks was discovered by George Andrews in 1976 in the library at Trinity College. Later the contents of this notebook were published as a book.
- **Ramanujan number:** 1729 is known as the Ramanujan number. It is the smallest number which can be expressed as the sum of two different cubes in two different ways.1729 is the sum of the cubes of 10 and 9-cube of 10 is 1000 and cube of 9 is 729 adding the two numbers results in 1729. 1729 is also the sum of the cubes of 12 and 1, cube of 12 is 1728 and cube of 1 is 1 adding the two results in 1729. **Hence, statement (I) and (II) are correct and statement (II) is the correct explanation for statement (I).**

23. (b)

Explanation:

- **India and Germany** signed a Comprehensive Partnership on Migration and Mobility meant to ease

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travel for research, study and work for people in both countries. It would be the basis for a more contemporary partnership to relations. **Hence, option (b) is correct.**

- The **main objective** of the is to provide for the **equal treatment of nationals of both Parties** in similar situations, while also ensuring that the provisions of the Agreement do not prejudice the application of national laws on the stay of foreigners on all points not dealt with in the Agreement.

Economic Cooperation - A Challenge:

- There is a problem of the lack of a separate bilateral investment treaty between the two countries. Germany has a **Bilateral Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA)** with India via EU, it does not have the competence to negotiate it separately.
- Germany is particularly sceptical about India's trade liberalization measures; it supports more liberal labour regulations. The agreed Partnership on Migration and Mobility is meant to address these concerns.

24. (c)

Explanation:

- For the first time, the **National Security Advisor (NSA)** of India, hosted a **special meeting** with his counterparts from Central Asian countries - **Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.**
- India's engagement with Central Asian countries is driven by its geopolitical interests, particularly in countering the influence of regional powers like China and Russia.
- India seeks to **establish strategic partnerships** and alliances to maintain its influence in the region and balance the power dynamics. **Hence, statement (1) is correct.**
- India's motivations for engaging with Central Asian countries is to **secure access to the region's significant energy resources,** including oil and natural gas.
- Energy security is a critical factor for India's growing economy and energy needs. **Hence, statement (2) is correct.**
- India shares **historical and cultural ties with Central Asian countries.** These connections date back to ancient times when trade routes like the Silk Road facilitated cultural exchanges and economic interactions between India and Central Asia.
- India seeks to revive and strengthen these historical ties for mutual benefit. **Hence, statement (3) is correct.**
- While India does engage in security-related discussions with Central Asian countries, its primary focus in the region is often on economic, cultural, and diplomatic cooperation **rather than military alliances. Hence, statement (4) is NOT correct.**

25. (b)

Explanation:

International Labour Organization (ILO)

- Established in **1919** by the **Treaty of Versailles** as an affiliated agency of the **League of Nations. Hence, statement (1) is NOT correct.**
- Became the first affiliated **specialized agency** of the **United Nations in 1946.**
- **Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland
- The basis of the ILO is the **tripartite principle,** i.e., the negotiations within the organization are held between the representatives of governments, trade unions, and member-states' employers.
- It is the only tripartite U.N. agency, since 1919**.** It brings together **governments, employers and workers of 187 member States,** to set labour standards, develop policies and devise programmes promoting decent work for all women and men. **Hence, statement (2) is correct.**
- **Reports:**
  - Global Wage Report, World Employment and Social Outlook, World Social Protection Report and Social Dialogue Report. **Hence, statement (3) is correct.**

26. (b)

Explanation:

- When two hurricanes (or cyclones, depending on where you live), spinning in the same direction, are brought close together, they begin 'an intense dance around their common center' – **this interaction between two cyclones is called the Fujiwhara effect. Hence, option (b) is correct.**
- If one hurricane's intensity overpowers the other, then the smaller one will orbit it and eventually crash into its vortex to be absorbed. On the other hand, if two storms of similar strengths pass by each other, they may gravitate towards each other until they reach a common center and merge, or merely spin each other around for a while before shooting off on their own paths.

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- In rare instances, the two 'dancing' cyclones, if they are intense enough, may merge with one another, leading to the formation of a **mega cyclone** capable of wreaking havoc along coastlines.
- The interaction could lead to changes in the track and intensity of either or both storm systems.
- In rare cases, the two systems could merge, especially when they are of similar size and intensity, to form a bigger storm.
- With typhoon Hinnamnor and another tropical storm called Gardo, meteorologists observed a phenomenon called the Fujiwhara Effect.
- Typhoon Hinnamnor, known in the Philippines as Super Typhoon Henry, was a very large and powerful tropical cyclone in Pacific Ocean that impacted Japan and South Korea.

27. (b)

Explanation:

- Recently, the Indian President had raised the issue of the plight of a large number of undertrials holed up in the prisons.
- An undertrial is a person who is currently on trial or who is imprisoned on remand whilst awaiting trial or a person who is on a trial in a court of law.

Constitutional Protection for Undertrials:

- **State Subject:** Prisons and persons detained therein is a State subject under **Entry 4 of List II** of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. **Hence, statement (1) is NOT correct.**
- **Administration** and management of prisons is the responsibility of respective **State Governments.** However, the **Ministry of Home Affairs** provides regular guidance and advice to States and UTs on various issues concerning prisons and prison inmates.
- **Article 39A:** Article 39A of the Constitution directs the State to ensure the operation of the legal system promotes justice on a basis of equal opportunity and shall, in particular, provide free legal aid by suitable legislation or schemes or in any other way, to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities.
- **Article 21:** It forms the basis of reasonable, fair and just liberty under Article 21 of the Constitution of India, which says, no person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by law.
- The **right to free legal aid** was held to be a fundamental right under **Article 21** in the case of **Hussainara Khatoon and Ors. v. Home Secreatary, State of Bihar (1979).** The right to free legal aid or free legal service is an essential fundamental right guaranteed by the Constitution. **Hence, statement (2) is correct.**

28. (c)

Explanation:

- Nuclear energy is the **fifth largest source of electricity for India.** India has over **22 nuclear reactors in 7 power plants** across the country which produces 6780 MW of nuclear power. **Hence, statement (1) is correct.**

The 7 Nuclear power plants are:

- **Tarapur** Atomic Power Station (TAPS), Maharashtra.
- **Kudankulam** Nuclear Power Station (KKNPS), Tamil Nadu
- **Kakrapar** Atomic Power Station (KAPS), Gujarat.
- **Kalpakkam**/Madras Atomic Power Station (MAPS), Tamil Nadu.
- **Narora** Atomic Power Station (NAPS), Uttar Pradesh.
- **Kaiga** Generating Station (KGS), Karnataka.
- **Rajasthan** Atomic Power Station (RAPS), Rajasthan.

Nuclear Power Corporation of India (NPCIL):

- **The public sector entity, NPCIL is responsible for designing, building, commissioning and operating nuclear power reactors in the country.** NPCIL operates under the **Department of Atomic Energy (DAE). Hence, statement (2) is correct.**
- India is the leader of the new resource of nuclear fuel called **Thorium,** which is considered to be the **nuclear fuel of the future.** With the **availability of Thorium**, India has the potential to be the first nation to realise the dream of a **fossil fuel-free nation. Hence, statement (3) is correct.**

29. (a)

Explanation:

- **Samudrayaan mission** is aimed at sending three personnel to **6000-metre depth** in a vehicle called **'MATSYA 6000'** for the exploration of deep-sea resources like minerals. **Hence, statement (1) is NOT correct.**
- 'MATSYA 6000' vehicle is being designed and **developed by National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT),** Chennai under **Ministry of Earth Sciences.**

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- It is **India's first unique manned ocean mission and is a part of Deep Ocean Mission. Hence, statement (2) is correct.**
- The Deep Ocean Mission, by the **Ministry of Earth Sciences,** aims to explore the deep ocean for resources, develop deep-sea technologies for sustainable use of ocean resources, and support the Blue Economy Initiatives of the Indian Government. **Hence, statement (3) is NOT correct.**
- **The manned submersible** will allow scientific personnel to observe and understand unexplored deep-sea areas by direct intervention.
- It will also **boost the Central government's vision of 'New India'** that highlights the Blue Economy as one of the ten core dimensions of growth.

30. (b)

Explanation:

- A **perfect collision** occurs when two **very dense stellar remnants collide.** Astronomers have now observed one of these **perfect explosions that was colossal,** and the blast was utterly spherical in nature, which happened as two neutron stars merged.
- **'Kilonovae'** occur when two compact objects, like **binary neutron stars or a neutron star and a black hole collide,** producing intense **electromagnetic radiation.** It is one of the **most powerful explosions to occur in the universe. It happens when two very dense objects, neutron stars, come together for a merger.**
- On another hand, a **Supernova** happens where there is a **change in the core, or center, of a star.**
- The **first type of supernova** happens in **binary star systems.** Binary stars are two stars that orbit the same point.

Hence, option (b) is correct.

31. (c)

Explanation:

- Researchers have discovered five new species of Black Corals living as deep as 2,500 feet (762 metres) below the surface in the **Great Barrier Reef and Coral Sea off the coast of Australia.**
- **Black corals** (Anthozoa: Antipatharia) can be found growing both in shallow waters and down to depths of over 26,000 feet (8,000 metres). **Hence, statement (1) is correct.**
- The **taxonomy of black corals is poorly known** compared to many other anthozoan groups. Many of these corals are branched and look like feathers, fans or bushes, while others are straight like a whip.
- Unlike the colourful, shallow-water corals that rely on the sun and photosynthesis for energy, **black corals are filter feeders and eat tiny zooplankton** that are abundant in deep waters. **Hence, statement (2) is correct.**
- They act as important habitats where fish and invertebrates feed and hide from predators in what is otherwise a mostly barren sea floor.
- Corals are **marine invertebrates or animals** which do not possess a spine. In scientific classification, corals fall under the phylum Cnidaria and the class Anthozoa.
- Coral is made up of genetically identical organisms called polyps. These polyps have microscopic algae called zooxanthellae living within their tissues. They are also called the **"rainforests of the seas".**

32. (b)

Explanation:

- **West Bengal's Lalbazaar** is becoming a centre for **Dokra**, a popular metalcraft. In 2018, Dokra craft from West Bengal was awarded the **Geographical Indication (GI) tag.**
- Dokra is a form of **ancient bell metal craft practised** by the **Ojha metalsmiths** living in states like **Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, West Bengal and Telangana.** Dokra or Dokra, is also known as bell metal craft. **Hence, statement (2) is correct.**
- The name 'Dhokra' comes from the **Dhokra Damar tribes,** who are the traditional metal smiths of West Bengal. The tribe extends from **Jharkhand to Orissa** to as far ahead to **Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan and even Kerala. Hence, statement (1) is NOT correct.**
- Their technique of **lost wax** casting is named after their tribe, hence Dhokra metal casting. The **Dokra artifacts** are made in brass and are unique in that the pieces do not have any joints.
- **Lost wax technique** is a unique form where mould is used only once and broken, making this art the only one-of-its kind in the world.

33. (c)

Explantion:

- A **'sand battery'** is a **high temperature thermal energy storage** that uses sand or sand-like materials as its storage medium. It stores energy in sand as heat. **Hence, statement (1) is correct.**

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- Sand is a **very effective medium** for retaining heat over a long period, storing power for months at a time. Its main purpose is to work as a **high-power and high-capacity reservoir** for excess wind and solar energy. **Hence, statement (2) is correct.**
- The **energy is stored as heat,** which can be used to heat homes, or to provide hot steam and high temperature process heat to industries that are often fossil-fuel dependent.
- The sand battery helps to **ambitiously upscale renewables production** by ensuring there's always a way to benefit from clean energy, even if the surplus is massive.
- Sand batteries can store a significant extent of thermal energy and can aid Clean Energy Solutions.
- **Finland** has installed the **world's first fully working sand battery** in its town called **'Kankaanpaa'** capable of storing green power for months at a time. The batteries can also solve the issue of year-round supply.

34. (d)

Explanation:

- A **Global Minimum Tax (GMT)** applies a standard minimum tax rate to a defined corporate income base worldwide.
- The **OECD** developed a proposal featuring a **corporate minimum tax of 15%** on foreign profits of large multinationals, which would give countries new annual tax revenues of USD 150 billion.
- The framework of GMT aims to **discourage nations from tax competition** through lower tax rates that result in corporate profit shifting and tax base erosion.
- It aims to ensure that big businesses with global operations do not benefit by domiciling themselves in **tax havens** in order to save on taxes.
- The minimum tax and other provisions aim to put an end to decades of tax competition between governments to attract foreign investment.
- It **impinges** on the **right of the sovereign** to decide a **nation's tax policy.** A global minimum rate would essentially take away a tool country use to push policies that suit them.
- **Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS**) refers to tax avoidance strategies the exploit gaps and mismatches in tax rules to artificially shift profits to low or no-tax locations. **GMT is another positive step towards global taxation reforms to address the issue of BEPS. Hence, option (d) is correct.**

35. (d)

Explanation:

- In the **2022 Global Hunger Index,** India ranks **107th** out of the 121 countries. With a score of **29.1,** India has a level of hunger that is **serious. Hence, statement (1) is NOT correct.**
- The GHI is prepared by European NGOs of **Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe. Hence, statement (3) is NOT correct.**
- The Global Hunger Index (GHI) is a tool for comprehensively measuring and tracking hunger at global, regional, and national levels. GHI scores are based on the values of four component indicators:
  - **Undernourishment:** the share of the population with insufficient caloric intake. In India 16.3% population is undernourished.
  - **Child stunting:** the share of children under age five who have low height for their age, reflecting chronic undernutrition. **In India 35.5% children are suffering from stunting. Hence, statement (2) is NOT correct.**
  - **Child wasting:** the share of children under age five who have low weight for their height, reflecting acute undernutrition. In India **19.3% children are suffering from wasting.**
  - **Child mortality:** the share of children who die before their fifth birthday, partly reflecting the fatal mix of inadequate nutrition and unhealthy environments. India has a rate of 3.3% child mortality.

36. (c)

Explanation:

- The **Reserve Bank** recently announced the launch of the first pilot for retail **digital Rupee (e₹-R)** also called **Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC).**
- Once officially issued, CBDC will be considered as a medium of payment and legal tender by all three parties - citizens, government bodies, and enterprises. Being government-recognised, it **can be freely converted** to any commercial bank's money or notes.
- Digital rupee **will be issued and controlled by the RBI.**
- CBDC is a legal tender issued by the RBI in digital form. **It is the same as the fiat currency and is exchangeable one-to-one with the fiat currency.** Only its form is different — it is not paper (or polymer) like physical cash. **Hence, statement (3) is correct.**

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- **It is a fungible legal tender, for which holders need not have a bank account.** CBDC will appear as 'liability' (currency in circulation) on the RBI's balance sheet. **Hence, statement (1) is correct.**
- Based on the usage and the functions performed by the digital rupee and considering the different levels of accessibility, **RBI has demarcated the digital rupee into two broad categories — Retail and Wholesale. Hence, statement (2) is correct.**
- **Retail e-rupee** is an electronic version of cash primarily meant for retail transactions. It will be potentially available for use by all — private sector, non-financial consumers and businesses — and can provide access to safe money for payment and settlement as it is a direct liability of the central bank.
- **Wholesale CBDC** is designed for restricted access to select financial institutions. It has the potential to transform the settlement systems for financial transactions undertaken by banks in the government securities (G-Sec) segment, inter-bank market and capital market more efficiently and securely in terms of operational costs, use of collateral and liquidity management.

37. (b)

Explanation:

- The Prime Minister Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) Scheme has been extended beyond March, 2022.The lending period has been extended till December 2024.
- **'SVANidhi Se Samriddhi'** component has been extended for all beneficiaries of PM SVANidhi scheme across the country.
- 'SVANidhi Se Samriddhi' was launched in January 2021 to map the socio-economic profile of the PM SVANidhi beneficiaries and their families.
- The scheme was announced as a part of the Economic Stimulus-II under the **Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.**
- It has been implemented since 1st June 2020, for providing affordable **working capital loans to street vendors** to resume their livelihoods that have been adversely affected due to Covid-19 lockdowns. **Hence, statement (2) is correct.**
- It is a **Central Sector Scheme** i.e., fully funded by **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** with the following objectives:
  - To facilitate working capital loan;
  - To incentivize regular repayment; and
  - To reward digital transaction

Hence, statement (1) is NOT correct.

38. (c)

Explanation:

- **Disguised Unemployment:** It is a phenomenon wherein more people are employed than actually needed. It is primarily traced in the agricultural and the unorganised sectors of India. **Hence, pair (1) is correctly matched.**
- **Seasonal Unemployment:** It is an unemployment that occurs during certain seasons of the year. Agricultural labourers in India rarely have work throughout the year. **Hence, pair (2) is NOT correctly matched.**
- **Structural Unemployment:** It is a category of unemployment arising from the mismatch between the jobs available in the market and the skills of the available workers in the market.
- **Cyclical Unemployment:** It is a result of the business cycle, where unemployment rises during recessions and declines with economic growth.
- **Technological Unemployment:** It is the loss of jobs due to changes in technology. In 2016, World Bank data predicted that the proportion of jobs threatened by automation in India is 69% year-on-year. **Hence, pair (3) is correctly matched.**
- **Frictional Unemployment:** It refers to the time lag between the jobs when an individual is searching for a new job or is switching between the jobs.

39. (b)

Explanation:

- Three **medicinal plant species** (Meizotropis pellita, Fritillaria cirrhosa, Dactylorhiza hatagirea) found in the Himalayas have been added to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species following recent assessment.
- **Meizotropis pellita:** It is commonly known as Patwa, is a perennial shrub with a restricted distribution that is endemic to Uttarakhand. It is **'Critically endangered'.**
- **Fritillaria cirrhosa:** It is commonly known as Himalayan fritillary is a perennial bulbous herb. Enlisting in IUCN is **'Vulnerable'.**
- **Dactylorhiza hatagirea:** It is commonly known as Salampanja, is a perennial tuberous species endemic to the Hindu Kush and Himalayan ranges of Afghanistan, Bhutan, China, India, Nepal, and Pakistan. Enlisting in IUCN is **'Endangered'. Hence, option (b) is correct.**

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40. (b)

Explanation:

- The enactment of the National Food Security Act, (NFSA) 2013 on July 5, 2013 marks a **paradigm shift** in the approach to food security from **welfare to rights-based approach.**
- The Act legally entitles **up to 75% of the rural population and 50% of the urban population** to receive subsidized foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System. **Hence, statement (1) is NOT correct.**
- NFSA defines the joint responsibility of the **Centre and State/UT Government**. **Hence, statement (2) is correct.**
- While the Centre is responsible for allocation of required foodgrains to States/UTs, transportation of foodgrains up to designated depots in each State/UT and providing central assistance to States/UTs for delivery of foodgrains from designated FCI godowns to the doorstep of the FPSs.
- The States/UTs are responsible for effective implementation of the Act, which inter-alia includes identification of eligible households, issuing ration cards to them, distribution of foodgrain entitlements to eligible households through fair price shops (FPS), issuance of licenses to Fair Price Shop dealers and their monitoring, setting up effective grievance redressal mechanism and necessary strengthening of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS).

41. (c)

Explanation:

- The Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes (MISHTI) scheme is **a government-led initiative aimed at increasing the mangrove cover along the coastline and on saltpan lands. Hence, statement (1) is correct.**
- It is an initiative of the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change** (MOEF & CC). **80%** of the project cost is borne by the **Government of India,** while the remaining **20%** is contributed by the respective **State Governments.**
- The scheme is primarily focused on the Sundarbans delta, Hooghly Estuary in West Bengal, India and other bay parts of country, but also includes other wetlands in the country.
- The objective of the scheme is to conserve and restore the mangrove ecosystem, which is critical to mitigating the effects of climate change, preventing coastal erosion, and sustaining local livelihoods.
- Under the MISHTI scheme, the government is providing financial assistance **to local communities to undertake mangrove plantation activities. Hence, statement (2) is correct.**
- The scheme also involves awareness campaigns to educate people about the importance of mangroves and their role in protecting the environment.
- The plantation activities are carried out in a participatory manner, involving local communities and NGOs, to ensure sustainability and community ownership of the initiative. Overall, the MISHTI scheme is a significant step towards promoting sustainable development and protecting the vulnerable coastal areas of India.
- WWF-India has pointed out that **MISHTI could potentially attract private resources and carbon and biodiversity offsets. Hence, statement (3) is correct.**

42. (a)

Explanation:

- Recently, the World Bank released a report **titled 'Striving for Clean Air: Air Pollution and Public Health in South Asia'.**
- **Airsheds:** The World Bank defines an **airshed as a common geographic area where pollutants get trapped, creating similar air quality for everyone. Hence, option (a) is correct.**
- **Six large airsheds exist in South Asia,** where the air quality in one can affect the air quality in another. They are:

Airsheds	Geographic Region
West/Central Indo-Gangetic Plain (IGP)	Punjab (Pakistan), Punjab (India), Haryana, part of Rajasthan, Chandigarh, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh.
Central/Eastern IGP	Bihar, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Bangladesh
Middle India	Odisha/Chhattisgarh
Middle India	Eastern Gujarat/Western Maharashtra
Northern/Central Indus River Plain	Pakistan, part of Afghanistan
Southern Indus Plain and further west	South Pakistan, Western Afghanistan extending into Eastern Iran

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43. (b)

Explanation:

- Recently, the **World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has released its first annual State of Global Water Resources Report 2021. Hence, option (b) is correct.**
- The **aim** of this **annual report is to support monitoring and management of global freshwater resources in an era of growing demand and limited supplies.**
- The report focuses on **three major areas:**
  - Streamflow, the volume of water flowing through a river channel at any given time.
  - Terrestrial water storage (TWS)- all water on the land surface and in the sub-surface.
  - The cryosphere (frozen water).

World Meteorological Organization (WMO):

- Intergovernmental organisation.
- Membership of **193 Member** States and Territories.
- **India is a member of WMO.**
- Originated from the International Meteorological Organization (IMO), which was established after the **1873 Vienna International Meteorological Congress.**
- Established by the **ratification of the WMO Convention on 23rd March 1950.**
- WMO became the **specialised agency of the United Nations** for meteorology (weather and climate), operational hydrology and related geophysical sciences.
- WMO is **headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.**

44. (b)

Explanation:

- The **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** marked **World Soil Day 2022 (5th December)** with the launch of its **first Global Status on Black Soils,** which are at greater risk than ever due to the climate crisis, biodiversity loss and land use change. **Hence, statement (1) is correct.**

Black Soil:

- Black soils are characterised by a **thick, dark-coloured soil horizon rich in organic matter.**
- Black soils are **extremely fertile** and can produce high agricultural yields due to their elevated moisture storage capacity.
- Black soils are **rich in iron, lime, calcium, potassium, aluminium and magnesium but deficient in nitrogen, phosphorous. Hence, statement (3) is NOT correct.**

Significance of Black Soil:

- The inherent fertility of the soils makes them the **food basket for many countries** and are considered essential to the global food supply.
- Black soils have the potential to **provide 10% of the total Soil Organic Carbon (SOC)** sequestration globally if they receive proper attention but the soil is losing its SOC. **Hence, statement (2) is correct.**
- Europe and Eurasia have the highest potential at over 65% and Latin America and the Caribbean at around 10%.
  - **Soil Organic Carbon (SOC) is a measurable component of soil organic matter.**

45. (c)

Explanation:

- The **Food Safety and Standard Authority of India (FSSAI) has approved the Himalayan Yak as a 'food animal'. Hence, statement (1) is correct.**
- The move is expected to **help check the decline in the population** of the high-altitude bovine animal by making it a part of the conventional milk and meat industry.
- Food Animals are those that are raised and used for food production or consumption by humans.
- **Habitat:** They are **endemic to the Tibetan Plateau** and the adjacent high-altitude regions. **Hence, statement (2) is correct.**
- The yak-rearing states of India are **Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir.**
- **Threats:**
  - **Climate Change:** The increasing trend of environmental temperature at high altitudes is resulting in heat stress in yak during warmer months of the year. This, in turn, is affecting the rhythms of physiological responses of the animal.
  - **Inbreeding:** As wars and conflicts have led to the closing of borders, the yaks outside borders are thought to be suffering from inbreeding due to the lack of availability of new yak germplasm from the original yak area.
  - IUCN Red list status: **Vulnerable**
  - CITES: **Appendix I**
  - Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act of 1972: **Schedule I**

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46. (d)

Explanation:

- **Methane is the simplest hydrocarbon, consisting of one carbon atom and four hydrogen atoms (CH_4). Hence, statement (1) is NOT correct.**
- It is **flammable** and is **used as a fuel.**
- The **common sources of methane are oil and natural gas systems, agricultural activities, coal mining and wastes. Hence, statement (2) is correct.**
- Global Warming Potential: **Methane is nearly 80-85 times more potent than carbon dioxide in terms of its global warming capacity. Hence, statement (3) is correct.**
- **Promotes Generation of Tropospheric Ozone:** Increasing emissions are driving a rise in tropospheric ozone air pollution, which causes more than one million premature deaths annually.

47. (a)

Explanation:

- **Total Fertility Rate (TFR):** The total fertility rate in a specific year is defined as the total number of children that would be **born to each woman if she were to live to the end of her child-bearing years, i.e., the reproductive years. Hence, option (a) is correct.**
- The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) of India **has declined from 2.2 to 2.0 between NFHS 4 and NFHS 5.**
- There are **only five states** in India which are **above replacement level of fertility of 2.1.**
- These states are **Bihar, Meghalaya, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand and Manipur.**
- **Replacement level fertility is the total fertility rate, the average number of children born per woman at which a population exactly replaces itself from one generation to the next, without migration.**

48. (d)

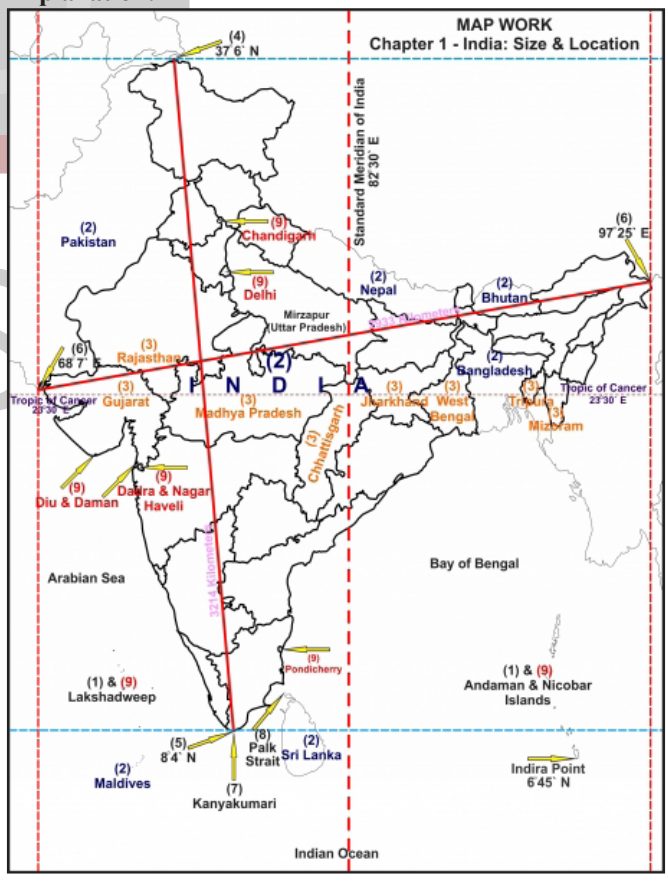
Explanation:

- FAO is a **specialised agency of the United Nations** that leads international efforts to defeat hunger.
- **World Food Day** is celebrated every year around the world on **16th October.** The day is celebrated to mark the anniversary of the founding of the FAO in 1945.
- It is one of the **UN food aid organisations based in Rome (Italy).** Its sister bodies are the World Food Programme and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).
- **Initiatives Taken:**
  - Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS)
  - Monitors the Desert Locust situation throughout the world.
  - The Codex Alimentarius Commission or CAC is the body responsible for all matters regarding the implementation of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme.
  - The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture was adopted by the Thirty-First Session of the Conference of the FAO in 2001.
  - One Country One Priority Product (OCOP) is a five-year programme (2021-25) to promote at global, regional and local levels

Hence, option (d) is correct.

49. (a)

Explanation:



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- India lies entirely in the northern and eastern hemisphere and extents between **6°45› N to 37°6›N latitude and 68°7› E to 97°25›E longitude.**
- The **southern boundary extends up to 6°45' N latitude in the Bay of Bengal** and in the north, it extends up to **37°6'N.** The latitudinal and longitudinal extent of India is roughly about **30 degrees**, whereas the actual distance measured from north to south extremity is 3,214 km, and that from east to west is only 2,933 km. **Hence, statement (1) is correct.**
- There is a general understanding among the countries of the world to select the standard meridian in multiples of 7°30' of longitude. That is why **82°30' E has been selected as the 'standard meridian' of India.** Indian Standard Time is **ahead of Greenwich Mean Time by 5 hours and 30 minutes. Hence, statement (2) is NOT correct.**
- There are some countries where there is more than one standard meridian due to their vast east-to-west extent. For example, the USA has seven time zones.

50. (c)

Explanation:

- The **northern boundary of the Peninsular Block** may be taken as an irregular line running from Kachchh along the western flank of the Aravali Range near Delhi and then roughly **parallel to the Yamuna and the Ganga as far as the Rajmahal Hills and the Ganga delta.**
- Apart from these, the **Karbi Anglong and the Meghalaya Plateau in the northeast and Rajasthan** in the west are also extensions of this block. The northeastern parts are separated by the Malda fault in West Bengal from the Chotanagpur plateau. **Hence, statement (2) is correct.**
- **The Peninsula** is formed essentially by a great complex of **ancient gneisses and granites,** which constitutes a major part of it. **Hence, statement (1) is correct.**
- The Peninsula mostly **consists of relict and residual mountains** like the Aravali hills, the Nallamala hills, the Javadi hills, the Velikonda hills, the Palkonda range and the Mahendragiri hills, etc. The river valleys here are shallow with low gradients.

51. (a)

Explanation:

- The Himalayan Yew, *Taxus wallichiana*, is a coniferous tree found in the Himalayan region, characterized by its evergreen foliage.
- The Himalayan Yew (*Taxus wallichiana*) is not a deciduous tree; it is an evergreen tree native to the Himalayan region. Evergreen trees retain their leaves throughout the year. **Hence, statement (1) is NOT correct.**
- While it is not cultivated for its fruit, it is renowned for its bark, which contains **taxol. Hence, statement (2) is NOT correct.**
- Taxol is a naturally occurring chemical compound with significant **anti-cancer properties.** The extraction of taxol from the Himalayan Yew's bark contributes to the development of cancer treatments, underscoring the ecological and medical importance of this tree. **Hence, statement (3) is correct.**
- The shoots are green at first, becoming brown after three or four years. So, it is not a fast-growing tree. **Hence, statement (4) is NOT correct.**
- The species is under great threat due to over exploitation. In the last one decade, thousands of yew trees have dried up in various parts of Himachal Pradesh and Arunachal Pradesh.

52. (b)

Explanation:

- Potential resources refer to those **naturally occurring materials or substances found in the Earth's environment that are not currently being exploited or utilized to their fullest extent but have the potential to be used in the future for various purposes. Hence, option (b) is correct.**
- For example, the western parts of India particularly Rajasthan and Gujarat have enormous potential for the development of wind and solar energy, but so far these have not been developed properly.
- These **resources are often untapped due to economic, technological, or social constraints** but hold value and significance for future generations.
- One key characteristic of potential resources is that they **may become economically viable** with advancements in technology or changes in market demand.
- For example, deep-sea minerals, such as **polymetallic nodules and hydrothermal vent deposits, are considered potential resources because extracting them from the ocean floor is currently technically challenging and costly.** However, as technology evolves and the demand for rare metals and minerals increases, these resources may become economically feasible to exploit.

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53. (c)

Explanation:

- Sacred groves are **patches of pristine forest or natural vegetation** that are regarded as sacred and inviolable by local communities due to their deep-rooted religious, cultural, and traditional significance. **Hence, option (c) is correct.**
- The concept of sacred groves is **deeply intertwined with indigenous beliefs and practices.** These groves are considered **dwelling places of deities, spirits, or ancestors,** and they play a central role in the spirituality and identity of the communities that protect them.
- They are **preserved and shielded from human interference,** often serving as sanctuaries for various plant and animal species.
- Certain societies revere a particular tree which they have preserved from time immemorial. For example, the **Mundas** and **Santhal** of Chota Nagpur region worship **mahua** and **kadamba** trees.
- In recent times, the **significance of sacred groves has been recognized beyond their cultural and spiritual importance.** They have gained attention for their role in biodiversity conservation and sustainable environmental practices.
- Efforts are being made to integrate traditional knowledge and community-based conservation approaches to protect these groves while respecting the beliefs of local communities.

54. (a)

Explanation:

- **Slash-and-burn farming also known as shifting cultivation,** is an **age-old agricultural practice primarily employed by indigenous and tribal communities in hilly and forested regions, particularly in parts of Northeast India, Southeast Asia, Africa, and South America.**
- It involves **clearing a patch of forest or land, burning the vegetation, and then planting crops in the nutrient-rich ashes.** After a few years, when soil fertility declines, the cultivators move to a new area, allowing the old plot to regenerate naturally. **Hence, statement (1) is correct.**
- Subsequently, crops such as **rice, millet, maize, or vegetables are planted in the fertile ash-enriched soil.**
- After a few years of cultivation, when soil fertility declines, the plot is left fallow, allowing the forest to regenerate naturally.
- This cyclical process involves shifting to a new plot, and the cycle repeats. Slash and burn cultivation is deeply ingrained in the cultural and socio-economic fabric of many indigenous communities. It is a way of life that sustains their subsistence agriculture.
- In India, this primitive form of cultivation is called **'Dahiya'** in Madhya Pradesh, **'Penda'** in Andhra Pradesh, **'Kuruwa'** in Jharkhand and **'Jhumming'** in the North-eastern region. So, it is not limited to North-eastern region alone. **Hence, statement (2) is NOT correct.**

55. (b)

Explanation:

- The **"Bloodless Revolution," also known as "Bhoodan and Gramdan,"** was a significant social movement **initiated by Acharya Vinoba Bhave,** a prominent disciple of Mahatma Gandhi, in post-independence India during the late 1950s and early 1960s. **Hence, option (b) is correct.**
- This movement aimed to **address the issue of land reform, reduce land inequality, and promote rural development in India.**
- The landowners were encouraged to **give away their excess land in a non-violent and voluntary manner.** This concept aligned with the idea of decentralized rural development and community self-governance.
- **The Bloodless Revolution was significant because it sought to address social and economic disparities in rural India through non-violent means.**
- It aimed to bring about a sense of social responsibility among landowners and promote self-reliance and cooperation at the village level. While it faced challenges and varying degrees of success, the movement contributed to discussions on land reforms and rural development policies in post-independence India.

56. (c)

Explanation:

- Minerals containing one or more **metallic elements** are known as metallic minerals. **Hence, statement (I) is correct.**

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- **Metallic minerals** are distinguished by their **metallic lustre** and their ability to conduct heat and electricity.
- They are **ductile and malleable,** can be beaten into sheets and stretched to produce wires. They encompass a wide range of elements and compounds, each with its unique properties and uses.
- One of the **most well-known metallic minerals is iron ore,** which is the primary source of iron, a fundamental element for constructing infrastructure, manufacturing machinery, and producing steel.
- Other significant **metallic minerals include copper, aluminum, lead, zinc, and nickel,** all of which have diverse industrial applications. For example, copper is used in electrical wiring and plumbing, while aluminum is essential in aerospace and transportation industries.
- Precious **metals like gold, silver, and platinum are also metallic minerals,** valued for their rarity and unique properties.
- Minerals that do not contain metallic elements are non-metallic in nature. **Mica is an example of a non-metallic mineral** as it is a poor conductor of heat and electricity. It is neither ductile nor malleable, so it can easily break into pieces when hit hard. **Hence, statement (II) is NOT correct.**

57. (c)

Explanation:

- Jute, often referred to as the **"Golden Fibre",** is a versatile natural fibre derived from the stems of jute plants, primarily grown in the **Ganges Delta** region of India and Bangladesh.
- India has been a **prominent producer and exporter of jute** for many decades. Jute cultivation and processing have been a part of India's heritage for centuries. It gained prominence during the British colonial period when jute mills were set up in the region. The first jute mill was set up **near Kolkata** in **1859** at **Rishra. Hence, statement (1) is correct.**
- **After partition in 1947,** the jute mills remained in India but three-fourth of the jute producing areas went to Bangladesh (erstwhile East Pakistan). **Hence, statement (2) is correct.**
- Jute is known for its versatility. It is used to produce various products, including sacks and bags, textiles, rugs, carpets, and handicrafts. Jute bags are particularly popular due to their eco-friendly nature.
- However, the jute industry in India has faced challenges in recent years due to competition from synthetic materials and changes in consumer preferences.

58. (d)

Explanation:

- **"Anything that can be used to satisfy a need is a resource".**
- Utility or usability is what makes an object or substance a resource.
- Some resources have economic value, some do not. For example, **metals and ore** may have economic value, but **a beautiful landscape** may not. But both are important and satisfy human needs, therefore they are resources.
- Some resources can become **economically valuable** with time. Grandmother's **home remedies** have no commercial value today. But if they are patented and sold by a medical firm tomorrow, they could become economically valuable.
- **Affection from friends and family** is also a resource because social capital also satisfies our needs.
- **Human Intelligence:** Human Resources refers to the number (quantity) and abilities (mental and physical) of the people. It is the skills of humans that help in transferring physical material into a valuable resource. Therefore, human intelligence is a valuable resource.

List of some resources:

- **Bauxite ore**
- **Intelligence**
- Medicinal plants
- Medical knowledge
- Coal deposits
- Clean environment
- Old folk songs
- **Grandmother's home remedies**
- **Affection from friends and family**
- **Beautiful scenery**

Hence, option (d) is correct.

59. (d)

Explanation:

- The **thin layer of grainy substance** covering the surface of the earth is called **soil.**
- Soil is made up of organic matter, minerals and weathered rocks found on the earth. This happens through the process of weathering. The right mix of minerals and organic matter makes the soil fertile.

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- The major factors of soil formation are
  - **Parent material:** the original rock or mineral that is broken down into soil particles.
  - **Climate:** The temperature, **rainfall,** and wind that affect the weathering and erosion of parent material.
  - **Organisms: Flora, Fauna** and microorganisms that contribute to the organic matter and nutrient cycling of soil.
  - **Topography:** The shape and **altitude** of the land affect the drainage and exposure of soil.
  - **Time:** The duration of the soil formation processes determines the maturity and development of soil.

Hence, option (d) is correct.

60. (b)

Explanation:

- Soil erosion and depletion are the major threats to soil as a resource. Both human and natural factors can lead to degradation of soils. Factors which lead to soil degradation are **deforestation, overgrazing, overuse of chemical fertilizers or pesticides, rain wash, landslides and floods.**

Some methods of soil conservation are listed below:

- **Mulching:** The bare ground between plants is covered with a layer of organic matter like straw. It helps to retain soil moisture. **Hence, pair (1) is correctly matched.**
- **Contour barriers:** Stones, grass, soil are used to build barriers along contours. Trenches are made in front of the barriers to collect water. **Hence, pair (2) is NOT correctly matched.**
- **Rock dam:** Rocks are piled up to slow down the flow of water. This prevents gullies and further soil loss.
- **Terrace farming**: **Broad flat steps or terraces are made on the steep slopes** so that flat surfaces are available to grow crops. They reduce surface run-off and soil erosion.
- **Intercropping:** Different crops are grown in alternate rows and are sown at different times to protect the soil from rain wash. **Hence, pair (3) is correctly matched.**
- **Contour ploughing:** Ploughing parallel to the contours of a hill slope to form a natural barrier for water to flow down the slope.
- **Shelter belts:** In the coastal and dry regions, rows of trees are planted to check the wind movement to protect soil cover.

61. (b)

Explanation:

- Water is a **vital natural resource.** Three-fourths of the earth's surface is covered with water. It is therefore appropriately called the **'water planet'.**
- It was in the primitive oceans that life began almost **3.5 billion years back.**
- Even today, **the oceans cover two-thirds of the earth's surface** and support a rich variety of plant and animal life.
- The ocean water is however saline and not fit for human consumption.
- **Fresh water accounts for only about 2.7 per cent**. **Hence, statement-I is correct.**
- **Nearly 70 per cent of this** occurs as ice sheets and glaciers in Antarctica, Greenland and mountain regions. **Hence, statement-II is correct.**
- Due to their location, they are inaccessible. **Only 1 per cent of freshwater is available and fit for human use.** It is found as ground water, as surface water in rivers and lakes and as water vapour in the atmosphere.

Therefore, both statement-I and Statement-II are correct, and statement-II is not the correct explanation for statement-I.

Reservoir	Volume (Million Cubic km)	Percentage of the Total
Ocean	1.370	97.25
Ice caps and glaciers	29	2.05
Groundwater	9.5	0.68
Lakes	0.125	0.01
Soil Moisture	0.065	0.005
Atmosphere	0.013	0.001
Streams and rivers	0.0017	0.0001
Biosphere	0.0006	0.00004

62. (b)

Explanation:

- **Biosphere:** Natural vegetation and wildlife exist only in the narrow zone of contact between the lithosphere, hydrosphere and atmosphere that we call biosphere.
- **Ecosystem:** In the biosphere living beings are inter-related and interdependent on each other for survival. This life supporting system is known as the ecosystem. **Hence, option (b) is correct.**

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- **Environment:** It is defined as the surroundings or conditions in which a person, animal, or plant lives or operates.
- **National Park:** A natural area designated to protect the ecological integrity of one or more ecosystems for the present and the future generations.
- **Biosphere reserves:** Series of protected areas linked through a global network, intended to demonstrate the relationship between conservation and development.

63. (c)

Explanation:

- **The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)** is an **international agreement between governments.**
- **Its aim is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten the survival of the species. Hence, statement (2) is correct.**
- CITES was drafted as a result of a resolution adopted in 1963 at a meeting of members of **IUCN (The World Conservation Union).** The text of the Convention was finally agreed at a meeting of representatives of 80 countries in Washington, D.C., United States of America, on 3 March 1973, and **on 1 July 1975 CITES entered in force. Hence, statement (1) is correct.**

CITES has classified species into different Appendices:

- **Appendix I** shall include **all species threatened with extinction** which are or may be affected by trade. Trade in specimens of these species must be subject to particularly strict regulation in order not to endanger further their survival and must only be authorized in exceptional circumstances.
- **Appendix II** shall include all species which although not necessarily now threatened with extinction **may become** so unless trade in specimens of such species is subject to strict regulation in order to avoid utilization incompatible with their survival
- **Appendix III** shall include all species which any Party identifies as being subject to regulation within its jurisdiction for the purpose of **preventing or restricting exploitation,** and as needing the **co-operation of other Parties** in the control of trade.
- The Parties shall not allow trade in specimens of species included in Appendices I, II and III except in accordance with the provisions of the present Convention.

64. (c)

Explanation:

- **Great Lakes** are the chain of deep freshwater lakes in east central North America. **Hence, statement (1) is correct.**
- The names of Great Lakes are **Superior, Huron, Ontario, Michigan and Erie.**
- Lake Superior is the **largest of these five lakes.** It **lies higher upstream than others. Hence, statement (2) is correct.**
- Except for Lake Michigan, all other lakes provide **a natural border** between Canada and the United States, a frontier that was stabilized by a boundary-waters treaty of 1909. **Hence, statement (3) is correct.**

65. (a)

Explanation:

- A forest is a large area covered by trees and natural vegetation; including plants, shrubs, and heaps of grass. It is one of the important resources that also provides shelter to wildlife.
- The area under **actual forest cover is different from area classified as forest (forest area).**
- Forest area is the area which the Government has identified and demarcated for forest growth.
- The land revenue records are consistent with the government demarcated forest area. **Hence, statement (2) is NOT correct.**
- Thus, there may be an increase in this category without any increase in the actual forest cover. **Hence, statement (1) is correct.**

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Forest Area	Forest Cover
Forest area is measured in hectares.	Forest cover is measured in square kilometres.
Forest areas are determined by government authorities.	Forest cover is measured using satellite imagery.
Forest area can be different from the actual forest cover due to factors such as deforestation or afforestation.	Forest cover is a more accurate representation of the actual area covered by trees.

66. (d)

Explanation:

- Coffee is a **tropical plantation crop.** Its seeds are roasted, ground and are used for preparing a beverage. There are three varieties of coffee i.e., **arabica, robusta and liberica.**
- India mostly grows superior quality coffee, arabica, which is in great demand in international market. **Hence, statement (1) is NOT correct.**
- India produces **only about 3.17 per cent coffee** of the world and ranks eighth after Brazil, Vietnam, Indonesia, Colombia, Honduras, Ethiopia and Peru (2018).
- Coffee is cultivated in the highlands of Western Ghats in Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. **Karnataka alone accounts for more than two-thirds of the total production** of coffee in the country. **Hence, statement (2) is NOT correct.**
- In recent times, there has been increasing attention on the health **benefits of South Indian coffee blend,** particularly highlighting the role of chicory and coffee with milk.

Climatic Conditions and Soil Types for growth of Coffee:

Climate Conditions:

- Hot and humid climate
- Temperature: 15°C to 28°C
- Rainfall: 150 to 250 cm.

Soil Conditions:

- Well-drained loamy soils,
- Presence of humus and minerals (iron, calcium),
- Fertile volcanic red earth.
- Deep sandy loam soils.

67. (b)

Explanation:

- **Coal** is originated from **organic matter wood.** When large tracts of forests are buried under sediments, wood is burnt and decomposed due to heat from below and pressure from above. The phenomenon makes coal but takes centuries to complete.
- The peninsular plateau region in the old crystalline rocks. **Over 97 per cent of coal reserves** occur in the valleys of Damodar, Sone, Mahanadi and Godavari. **Hence, statement (2) is correct.**
- Based on **carbon content,** it can be classified into following types:
  - **Anthracite** is the best quality of coal with highest calorific value and carries **80 to 95%** carbon content. It ignites slowly with a blue flame and found in small quantities in Jammu and Kashmir. **Hence, statement (1) is NOT correct.**
  - **Bituminous has** a low level of moisture content with **60 to 80%** of carbon content and has a high calorific value. Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh have deposits of Bituminous.
  - **Lignite** carries **40 to 55%** carbon content and is often brown in colour with high moisture content thus, gives smoke when burnt. Rajasthan, Lakhimpur (Assam) and Tamil Nadu has deposits of Lignite.
  - **Peat** is the first stage of transformation from wood to coal with low calorific value and less than 40% carbon content. **Hence, statement (3) is correct.**

68. (b)

Explanation:

- **Kandla Port** situated at the head of **Gulf of Kutch** has been developed as a major port to cater to the needs of western and northwestern parts of the country and to reduce the pressure at Mumbai port. **Hence, statement (3) is NOT correct.**
- **Mumbai port** is a natural harbour and the biggest port of the country. The port is situated closer to the general routes from the countries of Middle East. **Hence, statement (2) is correct.**
- **Jawaharlal Nehru** Port at Nhava Sheva was developed as a satellite port to relieve the pressure at the Mumbai port. It is the largest container port in India. **Hence, statement (1) is correct.**

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- **Kolkata Port** is located on the **Hugli River,** 128 km inland from the Bay of Bengal. Like the Mumbai port, this port was also developed by the British.
- **Chennai Port** is one of the oldest ports on the eastern coast. It is an **artificial harbour** built in 1859.

69. (b)

Explanation:

- The term **'Warabandi'** means **turns (Wahr)** which are **fixed (bandi). Warabandi is system of rotation of supply of water** according to a pre-determined schedule as per area and crop needs specifying the day, time and duration of supply to each holding to ensure equitable water **distribution among farmers of an outlet command.**
- The system can avoid huge water loss during delivery, increasing the water supply for irrigation, as it replaces gravity-based canal flows with a piped water supply. This allows farmers to use less water and grow more crops. The **Warabandi irrigation system is not limited by elevation.**
- The **cycle begins at the head and proceeds to the tail of the water course,** and during each turn, the farmer has the right to use all the water flowing in the water course. **Hence, option (b) is correct.**

70. (a)

Explanation:

- India has **14,500 km of navigable waterways,** contributing about **1% to the country's transportation.** It comprises rivers, canals, backwaters, creeks, etc. At present, **5,685 km of major rivers** are navigable by mechanised flat bottom vessels.
- For the development, maintenance and regulation of national waterways in the country, the **Inland Waterways Authority was set up in 1986.** The following waterways have been declared as the **National Waterways (NW)** by the Government:
  - **NW 1:** Allahabad-Haldia stretch (1,620 km), Ganga is one of the most important waterways in India, which is navigable by mechanical boats up to Patna and by ordinary boats up to Haridwar.
  - **NW 2:** Sadiya-Dhubri stretch (891 km), **Brahmaputra** is navigable by steamers up to Dibrugarh (1,384 km) which is shared by India and Bangladesh. **Hence, option (a) is correct.**
  - **NW 3:** Kottapuram-Kollam stretch (205 km), It includes 168 km of west coast canal along with Champakara canal (14 km) and Udyogmandal canal (23 km).
  - **NW 4:** Specified stretches of **Godavari and Krishna** rivers along with Kakinada Puducherry stretch of canals (1078 km)
  - **NW 5:** Specified stretches of river **Brahmani** along with **Matai river,** delta channels of Mahanadi and Brahmani rivers and East Coast canals (588km).

71. (c)

Explanation:

- **Wind energy is absolutely pollution free, inexhaustible source of energy.** The mechanism of energy conversion from blowing wind is simple. The kinetic energy of wind, through turbines is converted into electrical energy. **Hence, statement (1) is correct.**
- India **ranks 4th globally** after China, the United States and Germany, in terms of installed wind energy capacity, with 42.8 GW (onshore wind) as of April 2023. **Hence, statement (2) is correct.**
- **Wind Power Potential (in GW) at 120 m Above Ground Level:** Gujarat (142.56), Rajasthan (127.75), Karnataka (124.15), Maharashtra (98.21), and Andhra Pradesh (74.90).
- **Wind Power Potential (in GW) at 150 m Above Ground Level:** Rajasthan (284.25), Gujarat (180.79), Maharashtra (173.86), Karnataka (169.25), and Andhra Pradesh (123.33).

72. (b)

Explanation:

- The earth is made up of several concentric layers with one inside another.
- The uppermost layer over the earth's surface is called the crust.
- It is the thinnest of all the layers. It is about 35 km on the continental masses and only 5 km on the ocean floors.
- The **main mineral constituents of the continental mass are silica and alumina. It is thus called sial (si-silica and al-alumina). Hence, statement (1) is NOT correct.**
- The **oceanic crust mainly consists of silica and magnesium; it is therefore called sima (si-silica and ma-magnesium). Hence, statement (2) is NOT correct.**

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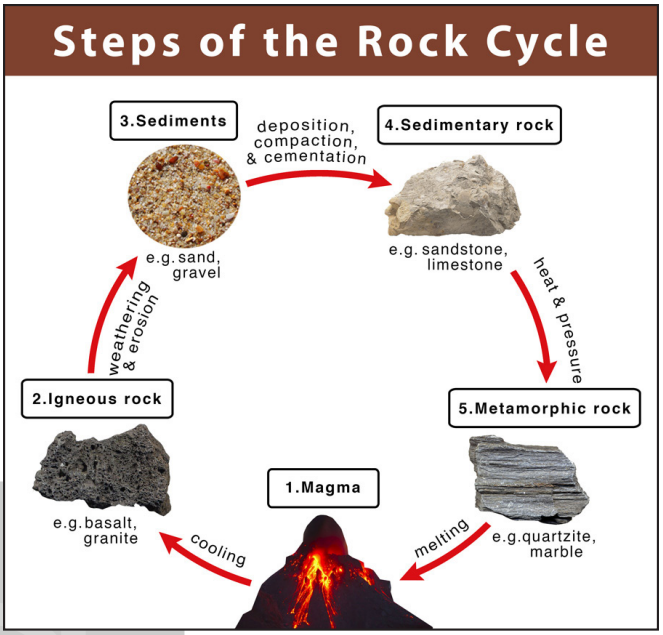
- Just beneath the crust is the mantle which extends up to a depth of 2900 km below the crust.
- The **innermost layer is the core** with a radius of about 3500 km.
- **It is mainly made up of nickel and iron and is called nife (ni – nickel and fe – ferrous i.e, iron). Hence, statement (3) is correct.**
- The central core has very high temperature and pressure.

73. (b)

Explanation:

- **Any natural mass of mineral matter that makes up the earth's crust is called a rock.**
- There are three major types of rocks: **igneous rocks, sedimentary rocks and metamorphic rocks.**
- When the **molten magma cools, it becomes solid. Rocks thus formed are called igneous rocks. They are also called primary rocks.** There are two types of igneous rocks: **intrusive rocks and extrusive rocks.**
- When this molten l**ava of volcano comes on the earth's surface, it rapidly cools down and becomes solid.** Rocks formed in such a way on the crust are called **extrusive igneous rocks.**
- They have a very fine-grained structure. For example, **basalt. The Deccan plateau is made up of basalt rocks.**
- Sometimes the **molten magma cools down deep inside the earth's crust. Solid rocks so formed are called intrusive igneous rocks.** Since they cool down slowly, they form large grains. Granite is an example of such a rock.
- Rocks roll down, crack, and hit each other and are broken down into small fragments. These smaller particles are called sediments.
- These sediments are transported and deposited by wind, water, etc. These loose sediments are compressed and hardened to form layers of rocks. These types of rocks are called sedimentary rocks.
- These rocks may also contain fossils of plants, animals and other microorganisms that once lived on them.
- Example of sedimentary rocks are: **shale, coal, limestone** and so on.
- Examples of metamorphic rocks are **slate, marble, gneiss** are metamorphic rocks

Hence, option (b) is correct.



74. (c)

Explanation:

- **The rhythmic rise and fall of ocean water twice in a day is called a tide.**
- It is **high tide** when water covers much of the shore by **rising to its highest level.**
- It is **low tide** when water falls to its **lowest level and recedes from the shore.**
- The **strong gravitational pull exerted by the sun and the moon on the earth's surface causes the tides. Hence, statement (I) is correct.**
- The water of the earth closer to the moon gets pulled under the influence of the moon's gravitational force and causes high tide.
- **During the full moon and new moon days, the sun, the moon and the earth are in the same line and the tides are highest.** These tides are called **spring tides.**
- But when **the moon is in its first and last quarter, the ocean waters get drawn in diagonally opposite directions by the gravitational pull of sun and moon resulting in low tides. These tides are called neap tides. Hence, statement (II) is NOT correct.**

75. (b)

Explanation:

- Ocean currents are the **continuous, predictable, directional movement of seawater.** It is a massive movement of ocean water that is caused and influenced by various forces. They are like river flows in oceans.

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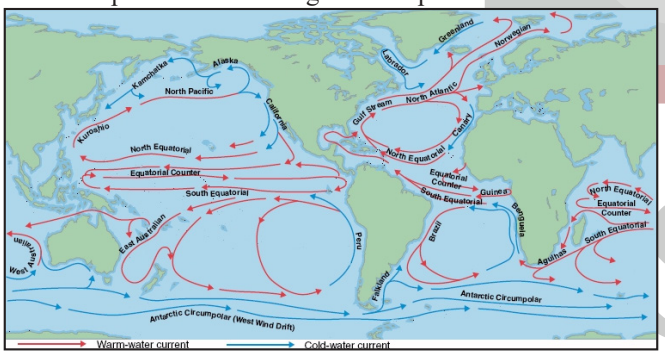
- **Equatorial Currents System:** Every ocean, except the **Arctic Ocean,** has a **North Equatorial Current, a South Equatorial Current and an Equatorial Counter Current.**
- **Equatorial Counter Current:** It is located between the North and South equatorial currents and flows in opposition to them, that is, from west to east.
- **Kurile or Oyashio Current:** This sub-arctic ocean current circulates in a counterclockwise direction. It **originates in the Arctic Ocean flows south via the Bering Sea in the western North Pacific Ocean.** It is a nutrient-rich current.
- **Benguela Current:** It is a branch of West Wind Drift of the Southern Hemisphere. It is present at the **Eastern portion of South Atlantic Ocean Gyre.** It is responsible for low salinity, presence of upwelling- excellent fishing zone.
- **Falkland Current:** It is a **branch of Antarctic Circumpolar Current.** It is also known as Malvinas Current. It is named after the Falkland Islands. This cold current mixes with warm **Brazil current and forms the Brazil-Malvinas Confluence Zone** which is responsible for the region's temperate climate.



Hence, option (b) is correct.

76. (b)

Explanation:

- **Deciduous forests** are also called **monsoon forests.** They shed their leaves at a particular time of the year. Deciduous forests are found in the foothills of the Himalayas.
- They are found in Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and in parts of Maharashtra. **Hence, statement (1) is correct.**
- Important trees of this forest are sal, teak, peepal, neem and shisham. **Hence, statement (2) is correct.**
- Deciduous forests are **found in the foothills of the Himalayas.** It is succeeded by the wet temperate type of forests between an **altitude of 1,000-2,000 m.**
- In the higher hill ranges of northeastern India, hilly areas of West Bengal and Uttarakhand, evergreen broad leaf trees such as oak and chestnut are predominant.
- Between 1,500-1,750 m, pine forests are also well-developed in this zone, with Chir pine as a very useful commercial tree.
- **Deodar,** a highly valued endemic species grows **mainly in the western part** of the Himalayan range. **Hence, statement (3) is NOT correct.**
- Deodar is a **durable wood** mainly used in construction activity.

77. (b)

Explanation:

- **Mauna kea (Hawaii)** in the Pacific Ocean is an undersea mountain. **Hence, statement (1) is NOT correct.**
- Mauna kea is an **inactive volcano** among mountains, at **4,205 m (above sea level).**
- Mauna Kea is one of five volcanoes that form the island of Hawai'i, the largest and youngest island of the Hawaiian–Emperor seamount chain. It is **higher than Mount Everest** being 10,205 metres high (below and above sea level). **Hence, statement (2) is correct**.
- Of these five hotspot volcanoes, Mauna Kea is the fourth oldest and fourth most active.
- It began as a **preshield volcano** driven by the Hawai'i hotspot around one million years ago and became exceptionally active during its shield stage until 500,000 years ago.

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78. (a)

Explanation:

- **Mount Kilimanjaro:** Located in **Tanzania,** Mount Kilimanjaro is the **African continent's highest peak** at 5,895 meters (19,340 feet). The majestic mountain is a snow-capped volcano. **Hence, pair (1) is NOT correctly matched.**
- **Mount Aconcagua:** It is the **highest mountain in South America** and the second highest of the seven summits. It is located **entirely in Argentina. Hence, pair (2) is NOT correctly matched.**
- **Mount Fuji:** It is **Japan's highest mountain** with a height above 12,000 ft. In June 2013, it has been included as a **UNESCO World Heritage site** as a **"cultural"** rather than a **"natural"** heritage site.
- The mountain is an exceptionally symmetrical super volcano which last erupted in 1707-08. **Hence, pair (3) is correctly matched.**

79. (b)

Explanation:

Atlantic Ocean

- The Atlantic Ocean is the **second largest ocean** in the world. **Hence, statement (1) is NOT correct.**
- It covers about **20% of the earth's surface area.**
- It is an **elongated S- shaped water body** between Africa, Europe, Arctic Ocean, Americas and Southern Ocean.
- The coastline of Atlantic Ocean is **highly indented** making it **ideal for natural harbours** and ports. **Hence, statement (2) is correct.**
- The **average depth** of this ocean is about **3,646 m.**
- The **deepest trench** in the Atlantic Ocean is **Puerto Rico Trench.**
- The north Atlantic Ocean was formed by the breakup of the supercontinent Pangaea and the south Atlantic Ocean was formed when the Gondwanaland broke in the geological past.
- The **largest island- Greenland** is located in the Atlantic Ocean.
- In the **south-east,** the **Atlantic Ocean merges into the Indian ocean.**

80. (a)

Explanation:

- **Meteoroids are objects in space** that range in **size from dust grains to small asteroids.**
- When meteoroids enter Earth's atmosphere at high speed and burn up, the fireballs or **"shooting stars"** are called **meteors.**
- When a meteoroid survives a trip through the atmosphere and hits the ground, it's called a meteorite.
- Asteroids are smaller than a planet, but they are larger than the pebble-size objects we call meteoroids**. Hence, statement (1) is correct.**
- Sometimes these meteoroids come near the earth and tend to drop upon it. During this process, due to friction with the air they get heated up and burn. It causes a **flash of light.** Sometimes a meteor without being completely burnt, falls on the earth and creates a hollow.
- Apart from the stars, planets and satellites, there are **numerous tiny bodies** which also move around the sun. These bodies are called asteroids.
- **Comets are frozen leftovers** from the formation of the solar system **composed of dust, rock, and ice.**
- The **majority of known asteroids** orbit within the **asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter. Hence, statement (2) is NOT correct.**

81. (b)

Explanation:

- These forests are found in the western slope of the Western Ghats, hills of the northeastern region and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. **Hence, statement (1) is correct.**
- They are found in warm and humid areas with an annual precipitation of over 200 cm and mean annual temperature above 22 degree Celsius. **Hence, statement (2) is correct.**
- Tropical evergreen forests are well stratified, with layers closer to the ground and are covered with shrubs and creepers, with short, structured trees followed by tall variety of trees.
- In these forests, trees reach great heights up to 60 m or above.
- There is no definite time for trees to shed their leaves, flowering and fruition. As such these forests appear green all year round.
- Species found in these forests include Rosewood, Mahogany, Aini and Ebony, etc. **Hence, statement (3) is NOT correct.**

82. (c)

Explanation:

- The mid-day sun is exactly overhead at least once a year on all latitudes in between the tropic of cancer and the tropic of capricorn.

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- This area, therefore, recieves the maximum heat and is called the Torrid zone.
- The mid–day sun never shines overhead on any latitude beyond the tropic of cancer and the tropic of capricorn. **Hence, statement (2) is correct.**
- The angle of the sun rays goes on decreasing towards the poles.
- As such the areas bounded by tropic of cancer and the arctic circle in the northern hemisphere and the tropic of capricorn and the antarctic circle in the southern hemisphere.These are therefore called temperate zones.
- Unlike parallels of latitude ,all meridians are of equal length. Prime meridian is 0-degree longitude and from it we count 180 degree eastward as well as 180 degree westward. **Hence, statement (1) is correct.**
- The prime meridian and 180 degree meridian divide the earth into two equal halves, eastern hemisphere and western hemisphere.

83. (b)

Explanation:

- Himalayan mountains form an unstable zone.
- The northern plains are formed of alluvial deposits.
- The peninsular plateau is composed of **igneous and metamorphic rocks** with gently rising hills and wide valleys. **Hence, statement (2) is correct.**
- The Himalayas, geologically young and structurally fold mountains stretch over the northern borders of India These mountain ranges run in a west-east direction form Indus to Brahmaputra.
- The altitudinal variations are greater in the eastern half than those in western half. **Hence, statement (3) is NOT correct.**
- The Himalayas consist of three parallel ranges in longitudinal extent. The northernmost ranges is known as the **Great Himalayas or the Himadri.**
- The folds of the Great Himalayas are asymmetrical in nature.
- The core of this part of Himalayas is composed of **granite. Hence, statement (1) is correct.**

84. (a)

Explanation:

- The western ghats and the eastern ghats mark the western and eastern edge of deccan plateau respectively.
- **The Eastern ghats are discontinuous and irregular and dissected by rivers** draining into the Bay of Bengal. **Hence, statement (2) is NOT correct.**
- Western ghat lie parallel to the western coast.
- They are continuous and can be crossed through passes only.
- **Western ghats are higher than eastern ghats.** Their average elevation is 900-1600 meters as against 600 meters of eastern ghats. **Hence, statement (1) is correct.**
- The Eastern Ghats stretch from Mahanadi valley to the Nilgiris in the south.

85. (a)

Explanation:

Chilika Lake:

- Chilika Lake is the **largest brackish water lake and wintering ground of the birds** in the Indian subcontinent.
- The Chilika lake is the largest saltwater lagoon in India. **Hence, statement (1) is correct.**
- Chilika is Asia's largest and world's second largest lagoon.
- In 1981, Chilika Lake was designated the **first Indian wetland** of international importance under the Ramsar convention
- Major attraction at Chilika is **Irrawaddy dolphins** which are often spotted off Satapada Island.
- The large **Nalabana Island (Forest of Reeds)** covering about 16 sq km in the lagoon area was declared a bird sanctuary in 1987.
- **Kalijai Temple** - Located on an island in the Chilika Lake.

Majuli Island:

- Majuli means 'the land between two parallel rivers'.
- Majuli is the world's largest river island according to Guinness World Record & situated on **the Brahmaputra River** in Assam. It sprawls over an extensive area of 352 sq km. **Hence, statement (2) is NOT correct.**

86. (c)

Explanation:

- The Narmada rises in the **Amarkantak hills in Madhya Pradesh. Hence, statement (1) is correct.**
- It flows towards the west in a rift valley formed due to faulting.
- The basin is bounded on the north by the Vindhyas, on the east by the Maikala range, on the south by the Satpuras, and on the west by the Arabian Sea.
- On its way to the Arabian sea, the Narmada creates many picturesque locations.

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- The 'Marble rocks', near Jabalpur, where the Narmada flows through a deep gorge, and the **'Dhuadhar falls',** where the river plunges over steep rocks.
- All tributaries of the Narmada are very short and most of these join the mainstream at right angles.
- Lying in the northern extremity of the Deccan plateau, the basin covers large areas in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and a comparatively smaller area in Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh. **Hence, statement (2) is correct.**

87. (c)

Explanation:

- The variation in duration of sunlight at different places is due to difference in latitude, altitude, season and duration of the day. **Hence, statement (1) is correct.**
- Due to the longer duration of sunlight, trees grow faster in summer. The character and extent of vegetation are mainly determined by temperature along with humidity in the air, precipitation and soil.
- Topography of region also affect the vegetation of the area. On the slopes of the Himalayas and the hills of the peninsula above the height of 915 meters, the fall in temperature affects the types of vegetation and its growth and changes it from tropical to subtropical, temperate and alpine vegetation. **Hence, statement (2) is correct.**

88. (c)

Explanation:

- Kaveri River is sacred river of southern India. It rises **on Brahmagiri Hill of the Western Ghats** in southwestern Karnataka state, flows in a southeasterly direction for 475 miles (765 km) through the states of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu and descends the Eastern Ghats in a series of great falls. **Hence, statement (1) is correct.**
- The Kaveri's main tributaries are the Kabani, Amaravati, Noyil, Hemavati and Bhavani rivers. **Hence, statement (2) is correct.**
- Before emptying into the Bay of Bengal south of Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu, the river breaks into many distributaries forming a wide delta called the **"garden of southern India."** Known to devout Hindus as Daksina Ganga ("Ganges of the South"), the Kaveri River is celebrated for its scenery and sanctity in Tamil literature and its entire course is considered holy ground. The river is also important for its irrigation canal projects.

89. (c)

Explanation:

- **EI-Nino is a complex weather system** that appears **once every three to seven years,** bringing drought, floods and other **weather extremes** to different parts of the world.
- The system involves oceanic and atmospheric phenomena with the appearance of **warm currents off the coast of Peru** in the Eastern Pacific and affects weather in many places including India.
- **EI-Nino is merely an extension of the warm equatorial current** which gets replaced temporarily by cold Peruvian current or Humboldt current. **Hence statement (1) is correct.**
- These current increases the temperature of water on the Peruvian coast by 10°C. This results in:
  - the distortion of equatorial atmospheric circulation,
  - irregularities in the evaporation of sea water,
  - reduction in the number of plankton which further reduces the number of fish in the sea.
- The word **EI-Nino means 'Child Christ'** because this current appears around Christmas in December. December is a summer month in Peru (Southern Hemisphere).
- EI-Nino is used in India for forecasting long range monsoon rainfall. In 1990-91, there was a wild EI-Nino event, and the onset of southwest monsoon was delayed over most parts of the country ranging from five to twelve days.
- The effects of El Niño can be globally far reaching, resulting in extreme rainfall and floods in the southern US and Central America, and **failed monsoons on the Indian subcontinent. Hence statement (2) is correct.**
- In Australia, **El Niño has been linked with an increased risk of drought, heatwaves, bushfires and coral bleaching.**

90. (b)

Explanation:

- The **Himalayas are weak and flexible** in their geological structure unlike the rigid and stable Peninsular Block. **Hence, statement (1) is correct.**

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- Consequently, they are still **subjected to the interplay of exogenic and endogenic forces,** resulting in the development of faults, folds and thrust plains. These mountains are tectonic in origin, dissected by fast-flowing rivers which are in their **youthful stage.**
- Various **landforms like gorges, V-shaped valleys, rapids, waterfalls,** etc. are indicative of this stage.
- Bhabar is a narrow belt ranging between **8-10 km parallel to the Shiwalik foothills** at the break-up of the slope. As a result of this, the streams and rivers coming from the mountains deposit heavy materials of rocks and boulders, and at times, disappear in this zone.
- **South of the Bhabar is the Tarai belt,** with an approximate width of 10-20 km where most of the streams and rivers re-emerge without having any properly demarcated channel, thereby creating marshy and swampy conditions known as the Tarai. **Hence, statement (2) is NOT correct.**
- **Tarai region has a luxurious growth** of natural vegetation and houses a **varied wildlife.** The south of Tarai is a belt consisting of old and new alluvial deposits known as the Bhangar and Khadar respectively.
- The **Brahmaputra plains are known for their riverine islands** and sand bars. Most of these areas are subjected to periodic floods**. Hence, statement (3) is correct.**

91. (b)

Explanation:

The Islands:

- There are **two major island groups in India – Andaman & Nicobar (Bay of Bengal) and Lakshadweep.**
- The **Bay of Bengal Island groups** consist of about **572 islands/islets.** The entire group of islands is divided into two broad categories – the **Andaman in the north and the Nicobar in the south.** They are separated by a waterbody which is called the **Ten-degree channel. Hence, statement (1) is correct.**
- It is believed that these islands are an elevated portion of submarine mountains. However, some smaller islands are volcanic in origin.
- Barren island, the **only active volcano in India** is also situated in the Nicobar Islands. **Hence, statement (2) is correct.**
- Some important mountain peaks in Andaman and Nicobar Islands are
  - Saddle peak (North Andaman – 738 m),
  - Mount Diavolo (Middle Andaman – 515 m),
  - Mount Koyob (South Andaman – 460 m) and
  - **Mount Thuiller (Great Nicobar – 642 m). Hence, statement (3) is NOT correct.**
- Saddle peak is the highest peak of the island group.
- The islands of the Arabian sea include Lakshadweep and Minicoy. The entire island group is built of coral deposits. **Hence, statement (4) is correct.**
- There are approximately **36 islands of which 11 are inhabited. Hence, statement (5) is not correct.**
- Minicoy is the **largest island** with an area of 453 sq. km.

92. (c)

Explanation:

- The **Indus System is one of the largest river** basins of the world. The Indus also known as the **Sindhu,** is the **westernmost** of the Himalayan rivers in India. It originates from a glacier near **Bokhar Chu** in the Tibetan region at an altitude of 4,164 m in the **Kailash Mountain range. Hence, pair (1) is correctly matched.**
- The Satluj originates in the **'Raksas tal'** near Mansarovar at an altitude of 4,555 m in Tibet where it is known as Langchen Khambab. **Hence, pair (2) is correctly matched.**
- It flows almost parallel to the Indus for about 400 km before entering India and comes out of a gorge at Rupar. It passes through the **Shipki La** on the Himalayan ranges and enters the Punjab plains. It is an **antecedent** river. It is a very important tributary as it feeds the canal system of the Bhakra Nangal project.
- **The Alaknanda** has its source in the **Satopanth glacier** above Badrinath. The Alaknanda consists of the Dhauli and the Vishnu Ganga which meet at Joshimath or Vishnu Prayag. The other tributaries of Alaknanda such as the Pindar joins it at Karna Prayag while Mandakini or Kali Ganga meets it at Rudra Prayag. At Devprayag, the Bhagirathi meets the Alaknanda; hereafter, it is known as the Ganga. **Hence, pair (3) is correctly matched.**
- The **Chambal rises near Mhow in the Malwa plateau of Madhya Pradesh** and flows northwards through a gorge up wards of Kota in Rajasthan, where the Gandhisagar dam has been constructed. From Kota, it traverses down to Bundi, Sawai Madhopur and Dholpur,

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and finally joins the Yamuna. The **Chambal is famous for its badland topography** called the Chambal ravines. **Hence, pair (4) is NOT correctly matched.**

93. (d)

Explanation:

- **Latitude:** Tropic of Cancer passes through the central part of India in east-west direction. Thus, northern part of the India lies in **sub-tropical and temperate zone** and the part lying **south of the Tropic of Cancer falls in the tropical zone.** Temperature decreases progressively from equator towards the poles due to lack of Sunlight.
- **The Himalayan Mountains:** The lofty Himalayas in the north along with its extensions act as an effective climatic divide. They **obstructs the passage of cold continental air** from the north into India in winter and force the south-westerly monsoon (rain-bearing) winds to give up most of their moisture before crossing the mountain range.
- **Distribution of Land and Water:** India is flanked by the Indian Ocean on three sides in the south and girdled by a high and continuous mountain-wall in the north. **Water heats up and cools down more slowly than land** and this has a direct bearing on the climatic conditions.
- **Distance from the Sea:** With a long coastline, **large coastal areas have an equable climate.** Areas in the interior of India are far away from the moderating influence of the sea.
- **Altitude:** Temperature decreases with height. The **lapse rate** is the rate at which an atmospheric variable, normally temperature in Earth's atmosphere, falls with altitude. For every **165 metre** rise in altitude, the temperature **decreases by 1 degree Celsius.**
- **Relief:** The physiography or relief of India also affects the temperature, air pressure, direction and speed of wind and the amount and distribution of rainfall.
- **Longitude:** There is no effect of longitude over climate. **Hence, option (d) is correct.**

94. (a)

Explanation:

- **Tropical Evergreen forests** are found in the western slope of the Western Ghats, hills of the northeastern region and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- They are found in **warm and humid areas** with an annual precipitation of over **200 cm** and mean annual temperature **above 22 degrees Celsius.**
- Tropical evergreen forests are **well stratified,** with layers closer to the ground and are covered with shrubs and creepers, with short, structured trees followed by a tall variety of trees.
- In these forests, **trees reach great heights up to 60 m or above.** There is no definite time for trees to shed their leaves, flowering and fruition. As such these forests appear green all the year round.
- The **long and broad leaves** form a covering at the top known as the canopy. Rain drips slowly from this canopy causing **little damage to soil.**
- Species found in these forests include **rosewood, Mahogony, aini, ebony,** etc. **Hence, option (a) is correct.**

95. (a)

Explanation:

- As per **Article 64** The Vice-President shall be **ex officio Chairman** of the Council of States (Rajya Sabha) and shall not hold any other office of profit. **Hence, statement (1) is correct.**
- The **Vice-President as Chairman of the Rajya Sabha** is the **unchallenged guardian** of the eminence and dignity of the House.
- **Article 89** of the Constitution provides provision for the **Chairman (Vice-President of India)** and the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha. **Hence, statement (2) is NOT correct.**

Power and Functions:

- **The Chairman** of the Rajya Sabha is **empowered to adjourn the House or to suspend its sitting** in the event of the absence of quorum.
- The Vice President is the second highest constitutional office in India.
- He/She serves for a **five-year term** but can continue to be in the office irrespective of the expiry of the term, until the successor assumes office.
- **Krishna Kant** was **first** vice president to die in office. **Hence, statement (3) is NOT correct.**

96. (c)

Explanation:

- **Cooperatives** are organizations **formed at the grassroots** by people to harness the power of collective bargaining in the marketplace.

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- This can mean different kinds of arrangements, such as using a common resource or sharing capital, to derive a common gain that would otherwise be difficult for an individual producer to get.
- **Part IXB (The Co-operative societies)** was inserted in the Constitution via **97th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2011. Hence, statement (1) is correct.**

97th Amendment 2011:

- The right to form cooperative societies was included as **Right to Freedom under Article 19 (1).**
- Promotion of Cooperative societies was inserted as one of the DPSPs **(Article 43-B). Hence, statement (2) is correct.**
- Further, developments over the years also necessitated changes in the Act so as to strengthen the co-operative movement in the Multi-State Cooperative Societies.
- Cooperatives of more than one state are registered under the **Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act (MSCS) of 2002 Act. Hence, statement (3) is correct.**
- Their board of directors has representation from all states they operate in.
- Administrative and financial control of these societies is with the central registrar, with the law making it clear that no state government official can wield any control over them.

97. (c)

Explanation:

Appropriation Bill vs Finance Bill:

- Finance bills are those bills that deal with fiscal matters, that is, revenue or expenditure. However, constitution uses the term 'financial bill' in a technical sense.
- **Finance bills are of 3 types:**
  - Money bill - Article 110
  - Financial bill (I) - Article 117 (1)
  - Financial bill (II) - Article 117(3)
- This classification implies that money bills are simply a species of financial bills. Hence all money bill are financial bill but all financial bills are not money bills. **Hence, statement (3) is correct.**
- Only those financial bills are money bills which contain exclusively those matters which are mentioned in article 110 of the constitution.
- While the Finance Bill contains provisions on financing the expenditure of the government, an Appropriation Bill specifies the quantum and purpose for withdrawing money. **Hence, statement (1) is correct.**
- Both Appropriation and Finance Bills are classified as Money Bills which do not require the explicit consent of the Rajya Sabha. The Rajya Sabha only discusses them and returns the Bills. **Hence, statement (2) is correct.**

98. (b)

Explanation:

- **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Ko Kaam Karyakram (PMKKK)** has been named as Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan (PM VIKAS) Scheme by the **Ministry of Minority Affairs. Hence, statement (1) is correct.**
- It is a Central-Sector Scheme, which focuses on the skilling, entrepreneurship and leadership training requirements of the minority and artisan communities across the country. **Hence, statement (2) is NOT correct.**
- This is an integrated scheme that converges five erstwhile schemes of the Ministry of Minority Affairs.
- **Seekho aur Kamao:** It is a **placement linked skill development scheme** for minorities aiming to upgrade the skills of minority youth in various modern/traditional skills depending upon their qualification, present economic trends and market potential.
- **USTTAD (Upgrading the Skills & Training in Traditional Arts/Crafts for Development):** It aims to promote and preserve the **rich heritage of the traditional arts & crafts** of the minority communities.
- **Nai Roshni:** It is a Leadership Development Programme for women belonging to minority communities in the age group of 18 to 65 years. It was started in 2012-13.
- **Nai Manzil:** The scheme aims to benefit the youth (both men & women) belonging to six notified minority communities of 17-35 years of age, who do not have formal school leaving certificates.
- **Hamari Dharohar:** It has been formulated to preserve rich heritage of minority communities of India. **Hence, statement (3) is correct.**

99. (c)

Explanation:

- The SPI was compiled by the **Institute for Competitiveness and Social Progress Imperative. Hence, statement (1) is correct.**

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- Social Progress Index (SPI) for States and Districts of India was released by the **Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM). Hence, statement (2) is correct.**
- It is an independent body constituted to give advice on economic and related issues to the **Prime Minister.**

Key Findings:

- **Highest SPI Score:** Puducherry
- **Lowest SPI Score:** Jharkhand and Bihar
- **Basic Human Needs:** Goa, Puducherry, Lakshadweep, and Chandigarh are the top four states with the best performance in water, sanitation and shelter.
- **Foundations of Wellbeing:** Mizoram, Himachal Pradesh, Ladakh, and Goa have emerged as the best-performing states for the Foundations of Wellbeing.
- **For Environmental Quality:** Mizoram, Nagaland, and Meghalaya are the top three states. Opportunity: Tamil Nadu has achieved the highest component score for Opportunity dimension.
- **Top Best Performing Districts:** Aizawl (Mizoram), Solan (Himachal Pradesh) and Shimla (Himachal Pradesh) have emerged as the top three best performing districts.

100. (b)

Explanation:

- Constitution Day is celebrated on **26th November** every year. It is also known as National Law Day. **Hence, statement (1) is NOT correct.**
- On this day in 1949, the Constituent Assembly of India formally adopted the Constitution of India that came into force on **26th January 1950.**
- The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment on 19th November 2015, notified the decision of the Government of India to celebrate 26 November as 'Constitution Day'.
- In **1934, M N Roy** first proposed the idea of a constituent assembly. **Hence, statement (2) is correct.**
- Under the Cabinet Mission plan of 1946, elections were held for the formation of the constituent assembly. **Hence, statement (3) is correct.**
- The Constitution of India is framed by the Constituent Assembly. The Constituent Assembly of India appointed committees to deal with different tasks related to the framing of the constitution.

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